FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 DECEMBER 1983

Israel

Israeli security forces detained 41 people for interrogation in the wake of the 6 December bomb blast on a bus in Jerusalem that killed 4 and wounded 46, Jerusalem radio reported. In a telephone call to AFP, the "Fatah Palestinian Movement-Revolutionary Council," a dissident organization opposed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, claimed responsibility for the attack and maintained that none of the "militants" who carried out the operation was among those detained. The agency also noted that the PLO had earlier claimed responsibility in a communique carried by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA. Meanwhile, a Palestinian spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo claimed responsibility on behalf of the "general command of the Palestinian revolution." Reacting to the bombing, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir promised the perpetrators "will be punished appropriately," according to IDF Radio.

PLO Affairs

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who heads the Coordination Committee entrusted with implementing the cease-fire agreement between warring Palestinian factions in Tripoli, announced that a final plan for the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters has been achieved and the necessary arrangements completed. In remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo, Karami stated that following the fighters' withdrawal from Tripoli, the responsibility for security in the city will be assumed by Lebanese Internal Security Forces in coordination with all local organizations, but refused to give further details of the withdrawal plan or arrangements. PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir declared that 'Arafat and approximately 4,000 supporters will depart the city for Tunisia and the YAR aboard Greek ships that are expected in Tripoli "in the next few days," according to Beirut radio. Athens radio cited Beirut press reports that 'Arafat chartered five Greek ships to evacuate him and his men and that the UN Security Council agreed to allow the UN flag to fly on the ships in order to ensure the Palestinians' safety.

In another development, 'Arafat told the Jidda paper *AL-MADINAH* that the PLO is trying to establish a "Palestinian-Jordanian confederation," SPA reported. Commenting on the talks with Jordan, PLO Executive Committee member Hani al-Hasan told the London-based *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the PLO and Jordan are trying to create a "political and military bloc capable of confronting the Israeli enemy," but reaffirmed that the two parties "refuse to allow Jordan to be a substitute home for the Palestinians."

Lebanon

U.S. Marines near Beirut airport responded to gunfire at their positions by returning fire and destroying the position from which the attack was launched, Beirut radio reported. The Lebanese Army also came under fire and shelled hostile targets further east, inflicting "accurate hits" on several artillery and missile bases, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Earlier, the radio reported that the 4 December U.S. raid on Syrian positions destroyed 15 SAM bases and the headquarters of the Syrian 83d Brigade. The Syrians recently reinforced their contingent in Lebanon by deploying special units and a SAM-9 battalion in the Mount Sannin area, Voice of Lebanon radio said.

Meanwhile, Syrian and Israeli official sources did not confirm Lebanese radio reports that an Israeli warplane was downed over the Al-Biqa' valley and its pilot captured. A Syrian military spokesman cited by Damascus radio claimed that Syrian air defenses downed an Israeli drone over the Al-Biqa' and said another Israeli drone was shot down inside Syria. In remarks reported by IDF Radio, the IDF spokesman acknowledged the downing of a pilotless plane in the Al-Biqa' but did not mention the loss of a second drone over Syria.

Algeria-USSR

Soviet First Deputy Defense Minister Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov arrived in Algiers and was received by Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algiers radio reported.

Afghanistan

During the week of 27 November-3 December "at least" 2,500 Soviet and "few" Afghan troops took part in a "major offensive" against guerrilla forces in the Shomali plain north of Kabul, AFP reported. Both sides suffered heavy casualties in the fighting, the agency added.

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Withdrawal Plan Complete, Awaits 'Arafat Approval
NC070709 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Preparations are being made in Tripoli for the departure of the Palestinians. Palestinian official Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, has declared that Yasir 'Arafat and approximately 4,000 supporters will shortly leave Tripoli for Tunisia and the YAR aboard Greek ships which are expected to arrive in Tripoli port in the next few days.

[Former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, chairman of the Higher Coordination Committee charged with supervising the implementation of the agreement on the Palestinian fighters' withdrawal, has affirmed that the final plans have been prepared. Following a contact with Rashid Karami, who is in Damascus, the northern Coordination Committee's political committee announced the completion of the preparations for the evacuation of the Palestinians, and said these preparations will be communicated to 'Arafat this morning.

It is understood that the details of the withdrawal plan will be announced after 'Arafat approves it.

'Arafat Comments on Withdrawal From Tripoli
GF070906 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Dec (WAKH) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, stressed that his political and military steadfastness in Tripoli accomplished two goals, preserving the integrity and the legitimacy of the PLO and preserving the unity of the Palestinian fighters, especially the unity of Fatah, when the Damascus agreements restricted its implementation to Fatah members and put an end to the role of the dissidents. In a statement published in today's issue of *AL-ITTIHAD* newspaper, the Palestinian leader said that his exit from Tripoli is no longer the point at issue following the agreement announced by the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia and which was attended by two of his own representatives while excluding the dissidents and confining recognition to the legitimate parties of the organization.

He added that he will leave Tripoli if intentions regarding the implementation of this agreement are good. However, he expressed doubt that the other parties will respond to the agreement. He also said that the implementation of the agreement with which former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami was charged to bring about the exit of the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli is subject to the parties' willingness to participate in the process.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed satisfaction because none of the resistance groups cast doubt on his legitimate representation of the Palestinian people "because the question of legitimacy is decided according to democratic and organizational principles within the PLO."

About the PLO's relations with Syria, he said he continues to employ all positive and possible means to maintain good relations between the two parties. He stressed that he does not deny the Syrian role in supporting the Palestinian question.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman expressed fear that Lebanon might be subjected to division and said that there are indications of the possibility of imposing division on it in a sectarian manner.

'Arafat on Saudi Role, Syria, Jordan Contacts
LD062301 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Jidda, 6 Dec (SPA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his appreciation for the role played by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his crown prince for ending his fighting between the Palestinian brothers. He said that he was in constant touch with his majesty and with Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in addition to the Palestinian officials who were also in touch with their brothers the Saudi officials. In a statement to *AL-MADINAH* to be published tomorrow, Yasir 'Arafat praised the efforts made by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam for the cease-fire.

The chairman of the PLO called for an Arab observers committee to be set up as soon as possible, pointing out that the issue cannot make progress solely on the efforts of the Higher Coordination Committee led by Rashid Karami, particularly since the cease-fire is still precarious. 'Arafat stressed that he will continue the political work in implementation of the political program which resulted in his election as chairman of the PLO. He added that the PLO is also trying to reach an accord with Syria.

Yasir 'Arafat announced that, in accordance with the political program recently endorsed in Algiers, the PLO is seeking to establish a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. Before his arrival in Tripoli, he noted, he was visited by a Jordanian official delegation in Tunis. Moreover, he has delegated Hani al-Hasan to Amman. He pointed out that a number of Palestinian officials visited Jordan and conducted talks there.

Aden VOP: PLO Strongholds Still Exist
GF060856 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Political commentary: "The Independent Decision is the First and Last Decision"]

[Excerpts] It is very painful when a Palestinian camp falls into the grasp of an Arab regime. It is even more painful to have the hand of that regime enveloped in a Palestinian glove. We say this because the camp, in our Palestinian life, is the most outstanding symbol of the Palestinian spirit. In other words, it is the stronghold of Palestinian nationalism which has not changed despite the presence of thousands of fatal elements.

Now, as the Palestinians and the world are preoccupied with the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps, a statement was disseminated by influential media saying that these two camps represent the last stronghold of 'Arafat and that their fall to the antagonistic powers represents the end of the stronghold and the symbol

and end of the political and revolutionary implications that they represented during the past 18 years of Yasir 'Arafat. While not belittling the importance of the fall of these two camps to the agents of an Arab regime, the matter is completely different from the assessments and inspirations of the major media, because the headquarters of Yasir 'Arafat is not defined by a geographic strip that can be maintained or lost.

During the lengthy years of the revolutions, there have been hundreds of major and bloody incidents whose main goal was to force 'Arafat to abandon independent national decisionmaking, to trade it for facilities provided by this Arab country or that. 'Arafat adopted the irrevocable stand: The Palestinian revolution — which the loathed Arab de facto status made incapable of liberating any piece of Palestinian land — cannot submit to these conspiring and effete sides the identity or decision of the Palestinian people. This identity and decision are the only historic accomplishments that have been attained in our age. These achievements are not subject to sale or trade because they are the fruit of the blood which has flowed from Palestinian veins throughout their contemporary revolution.

While we listen to talk about the last or the penultimate stronghold, we obtain from the position and commitment of our people more faith that the stronghold is in our hands, as it will always be when it is the stronghold of independent national decisionmaking and popular commitment to it. This situation will be reinforced and solidified by our unshakable faith in the gun of the revolution.

Finally, we will not admit to the dreamers that any of the camps have fallen to their grip. Our people did not give the dream of controlling any camp a chance and will not give the power to dream of controlling a Palestinian camp anywhere to anyone.

'General Command' Responsible for Jerusalem Blast

JN061333 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The explosion which occurred on a bus in Jerusalem today resulted in 3 dead and 10 wounded, according to Israeli security forces sources. On the other hand, the competent Israeli transport company said that 40 passengers were wounded, some of them serously.

A Palestinian spokesman has announced that the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces has claimed responsibility for the military operation against the Israeli military bus in the heart of Jerusalem. The spokesman added that a group from the Martyr Halim unit, which operates inside the occupied territory, carried out the operation which resulted in the killing or wounding of scores of Israelis.

The spokesman affirmed that the Palestinian revolution forces will continue to strike at Israeli military targets as part of the escalation which has begun in the occupied territories.

Dissidents Claim Responsibility

NC062023 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, Dec 7 (AFP) — Palestinian dissidents have claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack today in Jerusalem that left four dead and 43 wounded. In a telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE news agency here, a man claiming to represent the Fatah Palestinian movement — Revolutionary Council said a unit of this movement had placed a bomb in a bus carrying "agents of Zionist security".

The Fatah Palestinian Movement — Revolutionary Council is made up of dissidents against the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat as both Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman and head of Fatah, the main PLO grouping.

Claiming to be calling from Tripoli in northern Lebanon, the man said Israeli authorities had not arrested one of the "militants who carried out this operation." He said his movement felt that as the leadership "of 'Arafat weakens, the fighting abilities of our militants develop" and that "the blows directed against the deviationist leadership of Yasir 'Arafat are part of the operations our militants lead against the American-Zionist alliance and Arab reaction."

The PLO had earlier today — in a communique published by the Palestinian news Agency WAFA, monitored in Nicosia — claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem attack.

Israeli Position Near Sidon Shelled 5 Dec

JN061736 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The Palestinian and national Lebanese forces continue to escalate their heroic operations agaisnt the Zionist enemy forces in Lebanon. A group of resistance fighters yesterday shelled a Zionist forces' position in the Mar Ilyas area east of Sidon. The fighters used rockets and machineguns in their operation, which wounded several Zionists. Immediately afterward, the Zionist invasion forces cordoned off the area. These forces used flares to facilitate the search for the perpetrators, who managed to withdraw safely to base. Ambulances were seen rushing to the site of the operation.

Hani al-Hasan Arrives in Amman 6 Dec

JN070822 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Amman — Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Amman last night on a working visit to Jordan.

During the visit, Al-Hasan will hold consultations with Jordanian officials on the developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas and 'Arafat's future visit to Jordan.

Al-Hasan on Ties With Jordan, Egypt's Stand

PM061550 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 83 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Hani al-Hasan by Mahir 'Uthman in London — date not specified]

[Excerpts] *Question:* What will the political action be after the bloody incidents in Tripoli? Will it be a contest as to who will undertake the political negotiations — Jordan, the PLO, or Syria?

Answer: This is a very important question because it is the focus of the conflict that has been taking place recently. The conflict is over Fatah and not within it. The conflict over Fatah is an attempt to take the initiative from it and place it in Syria's hands. We would not have objected to placing the initiative in Syria's hands had Damascus linked the problem of Lebanon with the question of Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, whether the Golan or the West Bank and Gaza.

In 1982 some people believed that the Israeli attack on Lebanon would remain within the 40-km limit, but Sharon soon reached Al-Biqa' and gained control of the strategic balance in Lebanon. Therefore, it is not a question of competition but rather a matter of managing the conflict in the area. In other words, will the management of the conflict lead us to victory or to the abyss? For this reason we insist on independent Palestinian decision-making and on dealing with all problems simultaneously within broad Arab alliances, and not within Arab conflicts, from which only the Israeli enemy will benefit in the end.

So what we are now doing with Jordan is in fact action to create a political and military bloc capable of confronting the Israeli enemy. It is known in politics that to negotiate is to confront. The most honorable type of political and military confrontation is when both sides decide to search for a solution. For this reason we and Jordan today take a common critical view of two basic issues: The first is not to allow the Americans and the Israelis to place the U.S.-Israeli option above the Palestinian option; that is, we refuse to allow Jordan to be a substitute home for the Palestinians. The Palestinians do not and will not accept a substitute for their home, Palestine, regardless of what is being proposed.

The second point is that armed struggle sows and political struggle reaps. For this reason we are now working with Jordan to shape a common political view that takes into consideration what we have learned from the past, which is that the Americans have been unable so far to make Israel withdraw from Lebanon and have vetoed a resolution calling for the removal of settlements. Therefore, we Jordanians and Palestinians, within the framework of Arab solidarity, must search for a line of political action. The Fes summit resolutions remain the line of such action. Our goal within this solidarity must be to obtain the right of self-determination and European recognition of this right in order to force the Americans to accept that the Palestinians' right to self-determination with a confederation with Jordan, something that cannot be disregarded.

Question: Do the Arab countries, particularly Syria, still adhere to the Fes resolution, and are they trying to work within its framework?

Answer: Anyone who strikes at the PLO and rejects 'Arafat's leadership, which is endorsed by the Palestinian people has undoubtedly abandoned the Fes resolution and the 1974 Rabat resolutions that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. When I emphasize 'Arafat's leadership, I am not doing this in support of an individual; I am in harmony with the Palestinian people's desires. Yasir 'Arafat is the leader by decision of the Palestinian people, not of individuals; nor is this by force.

Question: Is the speculation by some European papers that Jordan might reconsider the Rabat resolutions about the PLO's being the sole legitimate representative accurate in view of what these papers describe as the recent weakness of the PLO?

Answer: First of all, the PLO has not weakened. We have certainly been through a critical 6 months and there was a threat that we would lose everything unless we regained control of the situation. I believe that we are now once again in control of things and we are no longer in the dangerous situation in which we found ourselves 6 months ago as a result of the attitudes and tricks of the dissidents. What is being said about the intention to hold [parliamentary] elections in Jordan is some sort of a message to the PLO to the effect that if no Jordanian-Palestinian understanding is reached, then Jordan will go it alone. This would certainly create many problems for the Palestinians carrying Jordanian passports and residing on the east bank of Jordan.

I believe that Palestinian diplomatic skills should concentrate on preventing Jordan from isolating itself and, at the same time, we should seek to formulate a joint Jordanian-Palestinian policy that will be within the Fes resolutions.

Question: Are we to understand from this that Jordan does not intend to review the 1974 Rabat resolution and that at the same time it is wary of the Israeli idea of the "Jordanian option," which calls for Jordan to be regarded as a substitute homeland for the Palestinians?

Answer: I personally know King Husayn very well, and since 1976 I have been following Jordanian policy and thinking about the management of the political struggle. I believe that, contrary to what is being said, Jordan does not want to shoulder the responsibility alone or want to be a substitute for the PLO. But Jordan is justifiably wary of the idea of a "substitute homeland" as this is an Israeli plan that could obtain U.S. approval if the Israelis succeed in convincing Washington of it. It is a plan based on the establishment of a substitute homeland in Trans-Jordan and the eviction of half a million Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza as well as from Nazareth and upper Galilee. For this reason we have a common point of agreement between us and the Jordanian brothers because a substitute homeland means the loss of Palestine. We will not fall into the Israeli trap and we should convince all our Jordanian brothers, King Husayn, and all the Jordanian institutions that we are with them without hesitation and that we will clearly work together to crush the idea of a substitute homeland.

Question: A few months ago there was talk of a joint French-Egyptian initiative at the United Nations concerning the Palestine problem. What is the fate of this initiative at present and is there any intention of reviving it?

Answer: This is one of the basic questions which we constantly discuss with our French friends. I am sorry to say that Egyptian policy is playing a delaying role instead of a positive role in this regard. Anyone who has followed Egyptian policy in the past few months will have noticed that Egyptian politicians are adept at discussing the political situation with well chosen words. They say, for example, that the situation needs a negotiating table, or that there are players but the ball is missing. We have begun to feel that with such words Egypt is evading its responsibilities and is not prepared to take any action if it cannot obtain prior U.S. approval of it. This is at a time when we must exert pressure in order to change the U.S. attitude. They believe the U.S. attitude cannot be changed through external pressure. This is also an evasion because there is nothing that cannot be changed through external pressure given suitable pressure. Such pressure can be applied not via words but via actions. For this reason we hope that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will have the necessary courage to encourage France to adopt stands regardless of prior U.S. approval or otherwise.

Any stand at the Security Council that the United states alone opposes is in the final analysis a gain for the Palestinian people. Here we must appreciate the French initiative in the Security Council regarding Lebanon. At the beginning many refused to support the initiative, but when we asked our French friends to go ahead and see how the pressures would succeed, many supported the initiative.

We find, for example, that President Chadli Bendjedid and Algeria's foreign policy adopt a positive stand and thus influence the French attitude because they encourage the French to go ahead rather than discouraging them, despite the Algerians' knowledge of the U.S. attitude. Algeria's pursuance of this policy has led to positive stand.

Likewise, the Saudi Kingdom, which knows what the U.S. attitude is like, is seeking to encourage France and Britain to adopt a more positive stand in supporting the Palestine problem and recognizing the Palestinian people's rights so that there is pressure on the United States to adopt a new stand.

Question: But President Mubarak recently said that 99 percent of the cards for a solution are in the Arabs' hands, which is contrary to President as-Sadat's remark in the past that 99 percent of the cards were in U.S. hands. Don't you think that this signals some sort of a change in Egyptian policy?

Answer: Of course. I fully realize that President Husni Mubarak is not Anwar as-Sadat. President Mubarak is trying to formulate a new policy, but he appears to be under great pressure and is therefore unable to carry out a qualitative change such as we would have wished to see.

Jordanian Minister Meets With Palestinians

JN070821 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Dec 83 p 26

[Text] Amman — Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs and head of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, yesterday met with Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member, head of the Department of the Occupied Homeland's Affairs, and head of the Palestinian side to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee. They discussed matters related to bolstering the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland.

Ibrahim also met with Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, head of the PLO's Economic Department and secretary of the PLO Executive Committee. They discussed matters related to the occupied territories, particularly economic matters.

It is noteworthy that An-Nashashibi headed the PLO delegation to the 40th session of the Arab Economic Unity Council which concluded in Amman last Sunday.

Al-Wazir on Convening Palestinian Bodies

GF061324 Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Dec (QNA) — Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stated that all leading Palestinian institutions, including the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestine Central Council, and the PNC, will be invited to meet and make an overall review of the current situation of the Palestinian struggle. In a telephone conversation with the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* published today, Abu Jihad, in reply to a question on the possibility of the success of dialogue with Jordan on the basis of the Fes summit resolutions, said: Political moves by all Arab parties will be defined after our arrival in Tunis. Our relations with each Arab country will be defined in a way to serve our cause and the Palestinian leadership will concentrate more on the occupied territories.

Abu Jihad said Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, is waiting for a reply to the message which was delivered by the chairman of the Higher Coordination Committee on the implementation of the clauses of the cease-fire agreement and the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from Tripoli.

PLO's 'Abd Rabbuh Urges Support for Syria

JN061538 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1424 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 Dec (SANA) — Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information and Cultural Department, has affirmed that the PLO is solidly behind Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces that are against the aggressive U.S. and Israeli plans. In a statement here today, 'Abd Rabbuh called on all forces and the Arab countries to support Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in their struggle to confront the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, which

seeks to control the region by waging an all-out war against the steadfastness and confrontation sides, especially fraternal Syria.

'Abd Rabbuh expressed his great pride in the brave Syrian Arab forces' confrontation of the U.S. and Israeli belligerency in Lebanon, pointing out that the cohesion of all Arab nationalist forces and their alliance with the USSR will defeat the aggression of the U.S. invaders and the planes of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd Rabbuh said that the present circumstances call for closing the ranks of all the confrontation sides, especially Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces.

Lebanese CP, PFLP Praise Syrian Stand

JN061728 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 Dec [SANA] — The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] and the PFLP have praised the Syrian forces' heroism and bravery in confronting the U.S. and Israeli planes over Lebanon. They affirmed support for Syria's principled and brave stand.During the meeting of the LCP and PFLP delegations today under George Hawi, secretary general of the LCP Central Committee, and George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP Central Committee, the two sides called on Arab nationalist and progressive forces to mobilize all their capabilities to support Syria and confront the U.S.-Israeli aggression.

The two sides touched on the situation in Tripoli and northern Lebanon and stressed the need to stabilize the cease-fire between the Palestinian brothers. They expressed full confidence in the Tripoli Higher Coordination Committee led by former Lebanese prime minister Rashid Karami and affirmed readiness to place all their capabilities at his disposal in order to end the current situation in Tripoli.

Concluding their statement, the two sides stressed the need to strengthen the joint struggle of the Lebanese Nationalist Forces, the Palestinian revolution, and Syria.

Arab Human Rights Organization Formed

GF061758 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Limassol, Cyprus, 1 Dec — More than 60 Arab figures, including thinkers, university teachers, and politicians in the Arab world, have announced the formation of the Arab Organization for the Protection of Human Rights [al-munazamah al-'arabiyah lil difa' 'an huquq al-insan] and have elected a Board of Trustees consisting of:

1. Fathi Rudwan from Egypt.
2. Dr Hasan al-Ibrahim from Kuwait.
3. Adib al-Jadir from Iraq.
4. Dr 'Ali Abu Hulayl from Morocco.
5. Faruq Abu 'Isa from Sudan.
6. Dr Burhan Ghalyun from Syria.
7. Dr Munzir 'Antabawi from Jordan.
8. Naji 'Allush from Palestine.
9. Dr Su'ad as-Sabah from Kuwait.
10. Muhammad Fayiq from Egypt.
11. Dr at-Tahir Labib from Tunisia.
12. Kamil Zuhayri from Egypt.
13. Mohamed Karam from Morocco.
14. Dr S'ad ad-Din Ibrahim from Egypt.

The basic function of the organization is aimed at calling for respecting human rights and basic liberties of all the citizens in the Arab world in accordance with the International Declaration on Human Rights and at protecting all individuals whose rights are subjected to violation.

The founders of the organization approved at their meeting in Limassol, Cyprus, the basic structure. They also elected Fathi Rudwan, a former Egyptian minister and a well-known writer and politician, as the chairman of the board of trustees and elected an Executive Board consisting of: Adib al-Jadir, a well-known Iraqi politician; Faruq Abu 'Isa, former Sudanese foreign minister; Dr S'ad as-Sabah, a teacher of economics in Kuwait; Muhammad Fayiq, former Egyptian information minister; and Dr Munzir al-'Antabawi, a teacher of political science and an expert at the UN committee for human rights. Dr S'ad ad-Din Ibrahim, who is an Egyptian teacher of sociology, was elected as the executive trustee of the organization.

The establishment of the Arab Organization for the Protection of Human Rights comes as a crowning of popular efforts that crystalized during a meeting at a Tunisian summer resort last April when a large group of thinkers met to discuss the deteriorating situation in the Arab world. Those who participated in the meeting in Tunisia formed a preparatory committee to prepare for a constituent conference in Limassol, Cyprus, on 1 December 1983, following another seminar to discuss the crisis of democracy in the Arab world.

During their discussions, the founders emphasized the human and nonpolitical character of their organization. The members also announced that the organization will operate on basis of voluntary popular efforts without depending on any official Arab institutions or any international bodies. The temporary headquarters of the organization will be in Cairo, Tunis, or in Kuwait and this matter will be determined by the decision of the Board of Trustees in light of the capabilities, laws, and facilities in these Arab capitals.

The Board of Trustees formed a committee under the chairmanship of Jasim al-Qatami from Kuwait to arrange for additional resources through a campaign of popular contributions at the level of the Arab world to be added to the annual contributions of the memebrs.

N. American Palestinians Issue Declaration

LD061149 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] United Nations, Dec 6 (KUNA) — The Palestinian community of North America adopted a declaration over the weekend reaffirming its support for the PLO under chairman Yasir 'Arafat and condemning Syria and Libya for their part in the attacks on the Palestinians in north Lebanon. The declaration,

adopted at a one-day conference on Palestine in Newark, New Jersey, also reaffirmed its solidarity with Arab forces, parties and liberation movements and recognised them as integral allies of the Palestine revolution.

Among those attending the conference were guest speaker Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO's Political Department, Shafiq al-Hut, the PLO's representative in Beirut, and Dr Ahmad Ad-Dajjani the PLO official responsible for educational matters.

Under the heading, "PLO 1983: Challenges Facing the Palestinian Revolution," the conference also condemned "U.S. imperialism and its unholy alliance with Zionism in their use of Israel as a tool to suppress the national aspirations of the Palestinian people." The declaration called upon the PLO leadership to "reform and rebuild and revitalise" the organisation's various agencies and institutions. Furthermore, it calls for financial, political and cultural support of the Palestinian living in the occupied territories so that they can protect their land and their identity against attacks from Zionist settlers.

The text of the declaration was made available Monday.

On the American front, the declaration urged a reassessment and reevaluation to strengthen the effectiveness of the political work conducted by Palestinian groups in this country.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Syrian President's Message

GF061806 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 6 Dec (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a written message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on current development in the Arab arena. The message was conveyed by Ahmad 'Ulayyan, charge d'affaires at the Syrian Embassy in Manama, during his meeting with his highness the amir here this evening. The audience was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs.

UK Minister Meets Amir, Cuts Short Tour

GF061906 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1853 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Manama, 6 Dec (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, met here this evening with Richard Luce, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him, currently visiting Manama. During the audience, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and the current Gulf, Arab, and international situations. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; and William Roger Tompkins, British ambassador to Bahrain.

Luce arrived Manama from Kuwait this evening on a short visit to Bahrain within the framework of his current tour of a number of Arab countries during which he will hold talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and means of strengthening them, the current Arab and international situations, and issues of common interest. Luce will depart Manama early tomorrow for his country after his government asked him to return to hold consultations with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jeoffrey Howe on the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Sees Luce, Condemns U.S. Raid

LD061339 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1151 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 6 Dec (KUNA) — Kuwait today once again denounced the American air raid against Syrian positions in Lebanon. It said that they further complicate the already complicated situation in the region. It also condemned the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel. It said that it adds further to the problems of the region.

This denunciation and condemnation were made public by the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Rashid ar-Rashid, who said that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and minister of information of Kuwait, had conveyed them to British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce when he received him today at his office at the Foreign Ministry. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad received Luce at 1000 in the presence of Ar-Rashid, director of the minister's office Sulayman Majid ash-Shahin, and the ambassadors of the two countries. Ar-Rashid told journalists that the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and the whole situation in the Middle East, especially the Palestinian problem and the situation in Lebanon.

He said that the talks also dealt with the recent strategic cooperation agreement between America and Israel, the situation in the Gulf, especially the Iranian-Iraqi war and all efforts and mediation to stop it, the latest of which took place at the UN Security Council in its latest meeting for this purpose. The foreign Ministry under secretary stressed that the two sides agreed that this war must stop, because stopping it would not only restore stability and peace to the region but also to the whole international community. He also stressed the importance of the role of the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council resolution in this matter.

Ar-Rashid went on to say: Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad again stressed Kuwait's clear stance vis-a-vis the strategic cooperation agreement between America and Israel. He said it will add more problems to the region, especially in light of Israel's stand on the Palestinian question and its occupation of Arab territory.

Kuwait's stance with regard to American aerial aggression against positions of Syrian forces in Lebanon was also presented. Ar-Rashid said that "this action is anarchic; we condemn and refuse to accept it. It complicates further an already complicated situation in the region."

PDRY

Foreign Minister To Review U.S. Raid in YAR

GF061424 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister, left Aden for Ta'izz today to deliver a written message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland. ANA has learned that the message deals with the recent developments on the Arab arena, particularly Yemen's stance toward the serious escalation of tension brought about by U.S. aerial bombing of positions of the Syrian forces and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. Brother ad-Dali will also consult with officials in the northern part of the homeland on what can be done to strengthen Syria's steadfastness in confronting the dangerous challenges to which it is being subjected.

OPEC Ministerial Conference Opens 7 Dec in Geneva

LD071403 Vienna OPECNA in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Geneva, 7 Dec. 83 (OPECNA) — OPEC's end-of-year ministerial conference opened here today under the chairmanship of its president, Mani' ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah, United Arab Emirates' minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

The 69th ordinary conference will discuss a recommendation of OPEC's four-member market monitoring committee to maintain the overall oil production ceiling of 17.5 million b/d and a price of 29 dollars per barrel for the marker crude.

The committee, chaired by Al-'Utaybah, met here Tuesday.

The ministers will also review a report of the OPEC long-term strategy committee, which met in London recently under the chairmanship of Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources.

Party Official Leaves for Damascus 6 Dec
GF061432 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] 'Ali As'ad al-Muthanna, member of the YSP Central Committee, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and director of the office of the YSP Central Committee secretary general, left Aden for Damascus today on a mission that deals with the struggle relations between the PDRY and Syria and in order to confront the current developments in the Arab arena. In a statement to ANA, 'Ali As'ad al-Muthanna said that his visit to Damascus is within the framework of the efforts which our country is exerting to strengthen its consultation and coordination with fraternal Syria in light of the conspiratorial plans and aggressive challenges by the imperialist-Zionist alliance forces which have seriously escalated in order to strike at the Arab national liberation movement and restore imperialist hegemony in the Arab region.

Libya's Jallud Arrives in Aden 6 Dec
GF061538 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the historical leadership of the 1 September Revolution in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Aden today on a short business trip to our country,during which he will discuss bilateral relations and a number of issues of mutual interest with party and state officials. He was welcomed by Staff Brigadier 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, first deputy prime minister; 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and industry minister; Salim Muhammad Husayn, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Aden; and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Aden.

Deputy Defense Minister Returns From YAR
GF061738 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff, returned to Aden from San'a' today after a short visit to the YAR.

QATAR

Amir Receives Syrian President's Message
GF061330 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The message was conveyed by Ahmad al-'Ulayan, Syrian charge d'affaires in Doha, during a meeting at the Doha Palace at 0930 today. QNA has learned that the message deals with the current Arab developments in general and the situation in the Lebanese arena in light of the U.S. aggression against the Syrian positions in Mount Lebanon, and the consequent dangerous effects in particular, in addition to the threat of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance to the security and interests of the Arab nation and world peace.

SAUDI ARABIA

Radio on U.S. Attack on Syrians in Lebanon
LD062237 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] The UN secretary general has warned that continuation of military action in Lebanon threatens an eruption of the situation in the Middle East and has cast doubt on the benefit of retaliatory attacks. This action and reaction will not solve the problem of developments in Lebanon or the complication of these developments due to outside influence. In fact, some people are trying to use their influence to inflame the situation in Lebanon, believing that escalation of the crisis could lead to its solution.

The grave developments now taking place in the Lebanese crisis could in no way serve to restore security and peace to this country, which has been and is still being torn apart by the war. Peace has not and never will come through escalating the problem and shedding still more blood. In the shadow of this regrettable reality, it is difficult to forecast the outcome of future developments if there is insistence on the escalation of violence in the belief that it will lead to the creation of a new reality which would pave the way for the restoration of security in Lebanon. This is the thinking behind American policy, which reached its peak when U.S. fighter aircraft raided Syrian air defense positions in Lebanon. This action gave the situation a new dimension and introduced another new element into the exploding crisis which could lead to further complications to be added to earlier complications.

It goes without saying that this does not in any way help the search for a formula for restoring security and safety to Lebanon. Violence and counterviolence cannot possibly lead to an atmosphere in which a formula can be found [word indistinct] to the parties to the conflict from outside the Lebanese arena, because the military power of any side is not the only decisive factor with regard as to what is happening in Lebanon. Restraint and rejection of the spirit of retaliation are more decisive factors and are needed in the search for a solution to the calamity of a people who have suffered a great deal from internal conflict and from the conflict of others for their sake.

Niger President Arrives in Jidda 6 Dec
LD061648 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1603 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Jidda, 6 Dec (SPA) — President of the Republic of Niger Seyni Kountche arrived in Jidda today at the head of a delegation that will visit the Kingdom for several days.

Minister Provides Outline of 5-Year Plan

LD052329 Riyadh SPA in English 1259 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 5 (SPA) — Saudi Arabia's upcoming fourth five-year development plan will include new targets so as to realise objectives of the country's comprehensive development as well as achieve economic and social integrity of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, Planning Minister Hisham Nazir said here today. Addressing a press conference on the basic strategy of the upcoming plan, he stressed HM King Fahd's concern to explain the programme to the citizens to acquaint them with full details of the plan.

The strategy of the programme reflects the concern and care given to the Saudi man by HM King Fahd's government so as all bodies and citizens will work hand-in-hand to realise the plan's set targets. Nazir said the plan's main targets are as follows:

— The preservation of Islamic values and reinforcement and spread of the divine faith.
— Defense of religion, homeland and the preservation of social security and stability of the country.
— The creation of ample resources for the development of Saudi Citizens' abilities and enhancing their sources of living.
— The development of manpower and raising its standards to serve all sectors.
— Pushing the wheel of the kingdom's cultural movmemen to cope with the progress enjoyed by the kingdom.
— Reducing dependence on oil as main source of national income.
— The continuation of making a factual change in the kingdom's economic feasibility by continuous diversifcation of the production base through more concentration on industry and agriculture.
— The development of mineral resources and encouragement of their extraction and exploitation.
— The concentration on qualitative development by improving public utilities and infrastructure completed during the last three previous plans.
— The completion of the basic infrascture completed during the last three previous plans.
— The completion of the basic infrascture needed to realise comprehensive development.
— Ensuring economic and social integrity among the GCC member states.

Nazir discussed the strategic bases for the achievement of the plan's main targets. He said the first strategic base deals with the improvement of the economic standard of services extended by the state to citizens like education, security services, electricity and transportation and this could be achieved through:

— The reduction of costs of these services.
— The reduction of the volume of unecessary services.
— The use of technology in all public utilities.
— Concentration on technology methods.
— The judgement of the economical feasibility of projects by the count of the cost of operation, maintenance, administration and not their costs of construction only.
— The encouragement for citizens to invest useful industries which use only local raw materials and which require minimum manpower.
— The encouragement of investments for big agricutural projects which use modern irrigation techniques and encourage investors to set up companies.
— Boosting of investments in projects which are of great need to the kingdom like the solar energy, modern irrigation techniques and green houses agriculture.
— Boosting of centres and research programs.
— Every project should include an operation and maintenance program and its annual cost and take into consideration the reduction of maintenance costs at the beginning of projects.
— The unification of technical specifications of projects to reduce the costs of maintenance.
— The necessity of formulation of programs for the training on the operation of machines to avoid operational hazards.
— The educational curriculums should include general ideas which would help individuals to carry out maintenance works.
— The selection of development centres in areas which are able to support productive projects to serve as a nucleus for urbanisation.
— The concentration on the employment of Saudi trained manpower at important departments.
— The development of administrative system to cope with the society's needs.

Nazir said the second strategic base deals with the adoption of a policy opening a way for the private sector to practice a lot of economic activity inthe state. This policy could be achieved through:

— Giving the private sector a chance to operate, administer and maintain some public sector projects on condition that this will lead to a decline in operational cost and better performance.
— Giving the private sector a chance to participate and invest in basic industries founded by the state through the sale of Sabic and Petromin's shares for this sector.
— Revising the state's methods, policies and regulations in order to give a free hand to the private sector in developing its activities.
— Encouraging cooperative societies and civil and commercial establishments to carry out economic and social projects like hospitals, private clinics and tourist sites.
— Urging commercial banks to increase their financial assistance to productive projects instead of concentrating on import trade.
— Encouraging the establishment of joint stock companies with the aim of making investments in big projects.
— Forming a body to control the exchange of companies stocks in order to encourage investments and avoid dangers of financial debacle.
— The contribution of the private sector in setting up and implementing training programmes.
— Increasing the number of programmes concerning prospects of investments open for citizens in the productive sector.
— Acquainting investors annually of results of mining studies and urging them to exploit available raw materials and opening doors before mining investment companies.

— Giving priority to Saudi qualified contractors in carrying out different projects.
— The divsion of projects wherever possible economically and technically to enable the Saudi companies to take part in their implementation.
— Encouraging the establishment of national companies for investment of capital inside the kingdom.
The third strategy deals with the ratification of direct and indirect subsidies made by the state for a number of commodities and services.

This could be achieved by the following:

— The reduction of percentage of subsidies by the state on commodities and services in a way to ratify their consumption without gratly affecting those people with limited income.
— Drawing the attention of all government departments that run public services departments to adopt an economic spirit in their administration through:

A — The reduction of the cose of these services and,

B — To make it sure that these services should sell at their production cost.

The fourth strategy deals with reducing the state's expenditure through the development of natural resources of eocnomic nature like minerals and marine resources.

— The expansion of petrochemicals industries through the private sector or amalgamated companies.

— Incrasing refining capacity at optimum level.

The fifth strategy deals with the continuation in the development of manpower through upgrading of educational and training programmes and curricula as well as carrying out necessary amendments or developments that cope with the Islamic Shari'a and the society's needs. This could be achieved by the following:

— Elementary education should be made compulsory for boys and girls.
— Reappraisal of curricula of university education, particularly the admission policy.
— Defining spheres and bases of human works in a way that do not contravene with Islam.
— Limiting stipends to university students and giving to technical and vocational as well as professional courses.
— Concentrating on an increase of training.
— Giving libraries priorities in order to get students accustomed with references and about their usage.

The sixth strategy deals with the development of the Saudi society and making available the social and medical care to all citizens in order to enable them to take part in the implementation of development plans. This could be achieved by following:

— Enlightening of the society's members on the main objectives of development by a key role of the press media.
— Spreading of culture through the establishment of public libraries and museums.
— Rendering more care to the handicapped people and the introduction of national programmes for their rehabilitation and welfare.
— Care to children at all levels.
— The introduction of military service at secondary schools.
— The expansion of literacy programmes and education for the old people.
— Paying care to preventive medicine and health guidance programmes.
— The improvement of citizens' capabilities in order to increase their income and eliminate social differences.
— Paying attention to social care schemes and encouraging the private sector to establish more philanthropic societies.

The seventh strategy deals with the establishment of security and defence plan to guarantee the safety of the state which will be presented to the National Security Council prior to its submission to the Saudi Council of Ministers.

The eighth strategy deals with the financial policy that will achieve a balance in the volume of revenues and expenditure of the state.

YAR

President Receives PDRY Foreign Minister

GF061810 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General Peoples Congress, received in his office at the presidential palace in Ta'izz today Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the YSP Central Committee and foreign minister of the southern part of our homeland, who conveyed a verbal message to the brother president from his Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the northern part of our homeland. The message deals with consultation and coordination on Arab and international issues of interest of both parts of the homeland. The meeting was attended by Brother Husayn ad-Dasa'i, the president's adviser for unitary affairs and member of the Standing Committee.

Mubarak on U.S.-Israeli Accord, Shamir Remarks

PM061718 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Dec 83 pp 1,21

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak Tells Reporters: The Strategic Cooperation Agreement Will Be an Obstacle to Peace"]

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt does not have complete information regarding the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement. If the published reports about the agreement are true, he said, then this agreement will constitute a major obstacle in the way of peace. The president added: Egypt is awaiting this information. If the agreement is indeed as announced, then it is an extremely serious matter because it upsets the desired balance in the region. We consider the United States to be a partner and an arbitrator in the peace process and therefore it should not take sides. President Mubarak was answering the questions of Egyptian reporters on the effects of the strategic cooperation agreement on the region. On Egyptian-Israeli relations, the president said: Our relations with Israel are similar to our relations with any other state. It is certainly not treated as a most favored nation.

He added: As regards the question of the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, I say that Shamir's statements in the United States to the effect that the Egyptian people are in favor of the ambassador's return, and that I am not, are completely untrue. The Egyptian people's decision, which I know and sense, is that the Egyptian ambassador's return should be conditional upon Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanon, the activation of the 25 April agreement on the Tabah issue, and the activation of the Palestinian issue as a whole. I said all this during my recent visit to the United States. We will never change or amend this position. The president also said: Egypt honors the agreements it signs. This stems from its respect for international charters. Israel also must honor and implement the letter and spirit of these agreements. I say it frankly: Those who were not in favor of the Camp David agreement from the very beginning should never accuse others of violating that agreement.

Referring to rumors about Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's health, the president said: Despite our differences and misunderstanding with Syria, if President al-Asad is ill, then I wish him recovery.

Mubarak Cables Omani Leader on Islam Holiday

NC061701 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Muscat, 6 Dec (MENA) — Oman's Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id has received the following telegram of congratulations from President Husni Mubarak on the occasion of the holy prophet's birthday anniversary:

As we celebrate the prophet's birthday anniversary, I am delighted to convey to Your Majesty my sincerest heartfelt congratulations on this noble occasion which marks the crack of a luminous dawn of hope for all mankind. I implore God almighty to make this blessed anniversary usher in a new era during which our Arab and Muslim nation will become unified in confronting the challenges and dangers that are aimed at harming our nation's freedom and will, and to grant all of us success in achieving good for Islam and dignity for the Muslims. Please accept my sincerest greetings coupled with my best wishes for your personal good health and happiness, and for the advancement and prosperity of your fraternal people. Please accept my highest esteem and appreciation.

Mubarak Sends Message to Iraqi President

NC061811 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid who will leave for Iraq. Following the meeting, Mr al-Hamid, who is also a deputy chairman of the General Association of Egypt's Labor Unions, stated that President Mubarak entrusted him with a verbal message to his brother and friend Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement Signed With Niger

NC061430 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA) — Two agreements were signed between Egypt and Niger at the Al-Qubbah Palace this morning. The first agreement concerns the establishment of a joint plenary committee for cooperation between Egypt and Niger. It was signed by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Daouda Diallo, Niger information minister. The second agreement deals with cooperation in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear power. It was signed by Mahir Abazah, electricity and energy minister, and Sani Koutoubi, Niger minister of mines and industry. It is to be recalled that Niger is a major uranium exporting country.

Niger President Kountche Leaves Cairo 6 Dec

NC061235 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA) — Niger President Seyni Kountche and his delegation left Cairo for home today following a 4-day visit. During the visit, talks were held on the problems in the Middle East and in some African countries. Two agreements were also signed, the first dealing with cooperation in the nuclear field and the second concerning the establishment of a joint committee for cooperation in all fields. The Niger president was seen off at the airport by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Niger ambassador and the Niger Embassy staff members in Cairo; and a number of senior state officials.

Australian Trade Minister Arrives in Cairo 6 Dec

NC061248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA) — Lionel Bowen, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade, arrived in Cairo this morning heading a delegation of 28 businessmen on a 3-day visit at the invitation of Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Al-Baz Returns From U.S. Visit 6 December

NC061646 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs, today returned to Cairo following a visit to the United States that lasted well over a month. During the visit, Dr al-Baz held some contacts with the U.S. side on the recent Middle East developments, particularly in view of the recent U.S.-Israeli agreement and the heightening of the U.S. intervention in military operations with the ensuing implications. During his visit to Washington, Dr al-Baz had medical checkups.

In an arrival statement, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that he had conveyed to the U.S. side a message from President Husni Mubarak. The message basically centers on the need for exercising self-restraint and making efforts to avert widening the scope of combat. The message states that reciprocal acts of violence would only result in creating further tension and instability in the area, diminishing peace opportunities, and providing an opportunity for increased foreign interference — all of which are matters that run counter to the interests of the area's peoples.

Dr al-Baz elucidated that, with regard to the recent U.S.-Israeli agreement — notwithstanding the U.S. clarifications concerning the contents of the agreement and the framework within which it has been concluded — Egypt feels that this agreement could result in placing a new obstacle on the path of peace and complete U.S. partiality to one of the two sides. Dr al-Baz said: All these things are happening prior to achieving a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue — without Israel having pledged to cease carrying out military operations against the Arab states, without halting its attempts to annex the West Bank and Gaza, and without freezing its settlement activity.

In his statement, Dr Usamah al-Baz explained that this heightening of U.S.-Israeli cooperation and focusing this cooperation on military aspects — such as the resumption of cluster bomb supplies to Israel and the U.S. contribution to the production of the Israeli military aircraft "Levi" without the United States having obtained a promise from Israel to cooperate in the peace efforts — all these matters are regarded as a negative and regrettable stance and a departure from the course to which the United States had committed itself.

Dr al-Baz added: This basically signifies that the United States is hindering itself in playing the role of mediator and partner in the peace process, irrespective of the explanations which the United States gives for having taken these new steps. Dr Usamah al-Baz said in his statement that the image that exists in the area of the new U.S. policy in the Middle East suggests that Washington has decided to establish a military and political pact with Israel at a time when Israel still occupies the territories of three Arab states -- Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. He said that the United States has thus jeopardized the peace opportunities at a time when we were hoping that — following the bloody events in Lebanon — attention would be turned toward exerting strenuous efforts to revive the peace process.

In concluding his statement, the Foreign Ministry first under secretary said: At any rate, within the next few weeks, Egypt will be watching events with all alertness and interest. Egypt specifies its stance in light of the steps that are taken by any side. Meanwhile, Egypt would like to see an element of flexibility in the situation to make it possible to confront events with efficacy and without rigidity.

'Ali Meets With PRC Political Delegation 6 Dec

NC061821 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with the delegation of the PRC People's Political Consultative Conference headed by Deputy Chairman Xiao Hua. The delegation arrived in Cairo on Sunday for a week-long visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Consultative Council. At the meeting, Kamal Hasan 'Ali gave a detailed explanation of the aspects of the current situation in the area, particularly the recent events in Lebanon, the developments in the Palestinian issue, and the Egyptian position on these events. The Egyptian stance is one of advocating the need for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon and for the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty over every inch of Lebanese territory. He also emphasized the need for preserving Palestinian legitimacy and for accelerating a solution to the Palestinian issue which is the core of the Middle East issue.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Interviewed by AL-ANBA'

GF061834 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 Dec 83 p 17

[Interview with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, by the *AL-ANBA'* correspondent in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] What about the deepening and consolidating of the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, amid the appalling events taking place in the region?

['Ali] On this, I do not object to strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel; however, I say that this should not be directed towards any Arab country.

[Correspondent] Is there any Egyptian inclination to host a Palestinian government-in-exile? Is this idea acceptable to Egypt, the Palestinians, and the Arabs?

['Ali] The problem is not in accepting or rejecting this idea. Egypt was the first one to call for the formation of the PLO. It was also the first one to call for giving the PLO political freedom. Egypt was also the first one to call for the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile and it offered Cairo as its headquarters. But this means that the Palestinians would have to be united, that all factions would agree on a unified stand, and that a minority inside the PLO could not impose its views on the majority under the claim of consensus. This is what is going on in the Arab scene: It is a stand which rejects the imposition of the minority view on the majority and the imposition of extremism over logic. This is the core of the issue. If the PLO is able to overcome this and its stand becomes clear, things would be easier and its natural headquarters would be Cairo.

[Correspondent] What are your frank and candid views on what has been said about Egypt hating Syria under President al-Asad, because Syria is its competitor and because it poses a threat to Egypt's influence in the eastern Mediterranean?

['Ali] I have never been a diplomat, but a politician who was placed in position which requires some sort of diplomacy. Therefore, I say frankly and clearly that Egypt has never had a disagreement with anyone over leadership. But still I say that Egypt has its role to play. As for how this role can be utilized and where, this must be defined by the will of the Arab nation and Arab peoples.

[Correspondent] But some Western political analysts say that Syria constitutes a threat to Egypt's leadership and role in the eastern Mediterranean more than the threat posed by Israel, particularly after the Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

['Ali] This issue between Syria and Egypt should not be proposed for discussion. Syria and Israel also should not be put on a balance scale.

[Correspondent] Your support for 'Arafat, because he embodies Palestinian legitimacy, implies your objection to Syrianand Palestinian factions who broke with 'Arafat.

['Ali] We object to any country or party which imposes its will on the independent Palestinian will. This is the core of the issue.

[Correspondent] What is your view of the opposition?

['Ali] No doubt the yield from what is illegitimate is illegitimate. The PLO represents the Palestinian people. Any organization attempting to dictate the will of any Arab country or party is truly not the representative of this country or party.

[Correspondent] Jordan will probably muster support from Arab countries, on top of which is Egypt and the GCC countries,to contain Syria's ambitions in the PLO. How far Egypt can go to confirm the PLO's independence?

['Ali] No doubt we will give our full political support to the PLO. This is the habit of Egypt toward the PLO despite the PLO's stand on Egypt, because what concerns us actually is the Palestinian cause. The question is not the PLO itself, because our basic support is for the Palestinian cause. We know that the PLO has a basic role in resolving the Palestinian issue and that is why we support it.

[Correspondent] Does this imply that Egypt supports King Husayn in the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue?

['Ali] No doubt Egypt will offer every possible support to both parties.

[Correspondent] Has Egypt mediated between Sudan and Ethiopia to ease tension between them?

['Ali] As you know, there is an integration between Sudan and us. Likewise, we have relations with Ethiopia; Sudan and Ethiopia also have relations. No doubt Egypt has carried out some role to ease the situation between Sudan and Ethiopia because the Sudan's security concerns Egypt,and because Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are important to us in the same way as they are important to Sudan.

[Correspondent] Can you describe in a few words your relations with some Arab countries? Kuwait, for example?

['Ali] Egypt's relations with Kuwait are excellent.

[Correspondent] With Saudi Arabia?

['Ali] They are good.

[Correspondent] Why are they shrouded with obscurity?

['Ali] They are good. I reiterate that we do not attach much importance to the methods of relations. Rather, what is important is the content and the essence of relations.

[Correspondent] What about your relations with Syria?

['Ali] We do not have any relations with Syria at all.

[Correspondent] With Libya?

['Ali] No relations at all.

[Correspondent] Jordan?

['Ali] They are relations of continued consultations.

[Correspondent] With Iraq?

['Ali] They are very solid.

[Correspondent] Your recent visit to Morocco has been said to have been positive and that its results will be evident in the future. Will this visit result in the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries?

['Ali] In fact, the visit was very constructive. We did not discuss the issue of restoring relations for the reason which I have mentioned: The return of full diplomatic relations does not concern us. What concerns us is the essence and content of these relations. The ambassador's return is not the core of the question, because it is bilateral relations and their esssence which are important.

Air Force Commander Interviewed by AL-MAJALLAH

PM061217 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Dec 83 pp 34-37

[Unattributed interview with Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Hilmi in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] "There can be no peace without adequate arms to defend it." This is the essence of Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Hilmi's philosophy, and it is on this basis that the

Egyptian Air Force operates. The Egyptian Air Force commander is full of hope, but he also does not want us to have any illusions. Every word he says has some significance because of his considerable military and moral responsibility.

He says: The manufacture of the first Arab aircraft will not begin for 4 years. There are numerous basic prerequisites for the aircraft industry, such as a sound industrial base, expertise, and technical cadres, as well as a sound economic base. There can be no doubt that Egypt has enough of these prerequisites to enable it to enter this field. The first step was the overhauling of aircraft engines and bodies for the Egyptian Air Force in Egyptian plants. That was followed by the assembly and manufacture of some spare parts of the French Alpha Jet plane. I must point out here that this matter is receiving considerable attention and encouragement, not only in the Air Force itself, but also at all political levels of the state because it is a strategic requirement to ensure self-sufficiency in armaments. As regards the types of planes, this matter is under study at the highest levels of specialization to achieve the desired results. The Mirage-2000 and the F-16 form a complementary combination and will therefore be the backbone of the Egyptian Air Force in the future.

Question: If the first Arab aircraft will not be produced for 4 years, what about modification of the Soviet and Chinese aircraft in Egypt?

Answer: We are at present radically modifying the Mig-21 aircraft. By that I mean modifying its entire combat mechanism, navigational equipment, and main missile system, so much so that a different name for the aircraft may be in order.

Undoubtedly, the aircraft in service at present cannot be disposed of or replaced at a stroke by more advanced aircraft. The Air Force's plans provide for modification of the Soviet and Chinese planes to bring them up to the standard of the modern planes of the same caliber.

Question: So much for the manufacture of an Arab aircraft and the modification of Eastern aircraft by Egyptians. What about the aircraft industry in Israel, especially the production of the Kfir and Lavi aircraft?

Answer: We know exactly what Israel has and we are aware of its plans in this field. Israel is now in the process of manufacturing the Lavi aircraft, which will not be superior to any aircraft we produce. The Lavi is expected to go into operation in the Israeli Air Force in the late eighties or early nineties to replace the Phantoms and the Skyhawks, after Israel gets a concession from General Electric to manufacture the F-404 engine. The Lavi project is considered to be a substitute for the Kfir production project.

Question: There are persistent rumors and claims about the presence of Egyptian pilots abroad. How true are these rumors?

Answer: Egypt's firm policy of not having any forces of any kind outside Egyptian territory undoubtedly applies also to the Air Force. There are no Egyptian pilots outside Egyptian territory, although there are extremely limited numbers in certain fraternal states working as experts only.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Urges Unity To Face U.S., Israel

NC070635 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 7 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: When President Husni Mubarak described this agreement as a catastrophe, he was not exaggerating. His description was a prediction that soon proved to be true. The second chapter of this agreement has begun and will inevitably lead to closing all doors to peace in the area. Last Sunday, U.S. aircraft raided Syrian positions in Lebanon. The Syrian forces managed to shoot down two U.S. aircraft. Yesterday, the Syrian forces shot down two Israeli aircraft, one of which was not content with overflying Lebanon, but overflew Syrian territory. Tomorrow or the day after, aircraft will overfly Syrian territory and bomb positions there. It is not important whether the aircraft will be Israeli or American, because there is no longer any difference, now that the United States has extended its hand to the Israelis in order to crush the slim hope of establishing peace.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says because the United States has chosen to resort to force and to pool its enormous resources to serve Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy, we Arabs must close our ranks. Perhaps this will constitute a warning [tahdhir] that will return the United States to its senses.

AL-AHRAM Columnist Views U.S.-Israeli Alliance

PM061136 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Dec 83 p 4

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah "Significance of Events" column: "The Stage of U.S. Retreat"]

[Text] This week's talks between President Reagan's administration and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir have led to what we expected in this column 3 weeks ago, namely a distinct change in U.S.-Israeli relations finding expression in an open form of large-scale military, political, and economic cooperation which Shamir himself has described as an "unwritten alliance" and which U.S. sources have described as placing Israel on a level similar to that of the Western NATO allies.

In fact this unwritten alliance between the United States and Israel was a fait accompli long before Shamir announced it. It was proved by events and political dealings in the area over the past two decades, and its results were evident in many U.S. and Israeli policies, the latest manifestations being the invasion of Lebanon with implicit U.S. approval and later the contractual agreement for the occupation of southern Lebanon sponsored by the United States. The only thing that was required for the alliance to make the switch from secret to public, from covert to overt, from being talked about cautiously to being talked about openly, was a convenient moment of weakness that would justify the U.S. Administration in replacing the false plastic carrot represented by Reagan's initiative, which for a long time has been dangled before the Arab world, with a U.S.-made Israeli big stick. So as far as we are concerned the U.S.-Israeli alliance is

the same whether it is written or otherwise and whether it was announced this week or several years ago, since the long-term result is the same.

However, we must try to understand the reasons that led President Reagan's administration to codify this cooperation when it invited Yitzhaq Shamir to visit Washington, accompanied by his Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Preparations for these critical talks were made during U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger's visit to Israel 2 weeks ago.

Obviously, the bombing of the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut,in which 230 U.S. soldiers died, revealed the true dilemma in which U.S. policy finds itself. The U.S. forces in Lebanon have become hostages similar to those which Iran held during Carter's era. If Washington withdrew them before the Lebanese situation was settled in accordance with the U.S. plan under the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, then the United States would lose much of its prestige and influence in the Middle East and it would have to retreat before the Soviet-backed Syrian tide. If it were compelled to strengthen its forces with a greater U.S. military presence in Lebanon and off the Lebanese coast, and become further involved in clashes with the Lebanese factional militias that oppose Amin al-Jumayyil's government, it would become inevitable for it to strike at the Soviet-operated Syrian missiles. In which case the situation in Lebanon will not be similar to that in Grenada.

On the other hand, it appears that the Lebanese national reconciliation conference in Geneva did not lead to results fully satisfactory to the United States. What the conference and the committees set up by it led to was some sort of an agreement on reviewing the internal Lebanese structure. This agreement was dependent on a consensus among all the parties on freezing the Lebanese-Israeli agreement or at least reviewing it. It has been noted that the U.S. interest in following up the steps taken and the agreements reached by the conference has diminished in a manner indicating that, from the U.S. standpoint, the time has not yet come to resolve the Lebanese problem. If Shamir's talks in Washington have led to emphasis on the need to maintain the Lebanese-Israeli agreement as a basis for political, military, and strategic coordination between the United States and Israel, the fact that the date for Al-Jumayyil's visit to the U.S. capital was set for after Shamir's distinguished visit to the United States raises much doubt as to what was said about a U.S. admission of the need to revise or alter the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in a manner that would satisfy Syria and make it agree to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. It also casts much doubt on the results of Al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington, which explains the reasons for the new flareup in the situation and the collapse of the cease-fire between the Lebanese Army and the factional militias in Beirut.

If we add to this the U.S. Administration's affirmation, through President Reagan and other senior officials, of the U.S. insistence on avenging the bombing of the U.S. military headquarters and the frank accusations that Syria is behind the perpetrators of the incident, this clear and evident change in U.S. policy becomes logical and compatible with the line President Reagan's administration pursues in other fields of its foreign policy, which is the hard line and the use of the big stick.

Thus the United States had no alternative but to revive the strategic agreement whose outlines were drawn up by Alexander Haig in 1981 and which the United States was compelled to freeze, not because Israel annexed the Golan Heights, as was said in justification of this action, but because Israel would not allow the strategic cooperation agreement to become a justification for closer U.S. ties with some of the moderate Arab countries with which the United States would like to strengthen its ties in the Middle East. It was also because then Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin had the premeditated intention of carrying out his recent adventure in Lebanon.

In 1981 there was talk of a strategic agreement between the United States and Israel that might include some Arab countries. The Soviet danger that Reagan was talking about was a distant vision in the Gulf region or on the peripheries of the Middle East. But now, after the Lebanese events and the appearance of sophisticated Soviet missiles in Syria, U.S. justifications for the revival of this cooperation find strong support both in U.S. quarters that were frustrated by the total failure of U.S. policy — beginning with Reagan's initiative and ending with the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and even the Lebanese national reconciliation conference — and in Israeli quarters that are concerned over Israel's involvement in Lebanon and Israel's urgent need for massive economic and military aid in order to compensate for its spending on the major invasion operation and on keeping occupation forces in Lebanon.

President Reagan's administration has thus returned to the starting point of the vicious circle in which U.S. policy is wallowing all the time. This point is the belief that Israel is the only indispensable ally in the Middle East and is capable of deterring and containing the Soviet danger, despite the fact that this very policy has forced Syria to obtain more Soviet arms, arms that it buys with Saudi or other oil money.

A few hours before details of the Israeli-U.S. cooperation agreement were announced, President Reagan tried to reassure the Arab world that this agreement would not be at the Arab countries' expense. Such assurances certainly seem like a comic scene in an American movie in the light of the sensational details of this cooperation, whose like even NATO countries do not enjoy, and which leaves out nothing that will make Israel a major power in the Middle East. Nevertheless, this policy in the final analysis is only a reflection of utmost weakness and the reverses from which U.S. policy is suffering in this part of the world.

Communique No 1,302 on 5-6 Dec War Operations

JN061721 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,302 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With strong men and fighters who are devoted to great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation, our valiant Armed Forces continue their victorious activities in the various operational sectors against the forces of the aggressive Iranian regime. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our competent frontline units noticed an enemy troop concentration and a helicopter on a hill opposite their positions in the northern operational sector. They opened fire with various weapons; the helicopter was destroyed three enemies were killed and two others were wounded. Two infantry positions and two observation posts were also destroyed. In another place in the same sector, more Iranian soldiers deserting the suspect Khomeyni regime have sought refuge among our units. They were safely evacuated to the rear positions of the front.

2. Our frontline units opened artillery fire on several enemy targets opposite their positions in the same sector, scoring direct and effective hits and killing two of the enemy.

3. One enemy was killed and an infantry position was destroyed east of Basra.

4. The criminal Khomeyniite clique shelled Mandali and its suburbs today. The enemy shelling damaged a plantation and several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 December 1983.

Saddam Husayn Receives Arab League's Klibi

JN061219 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received here today Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Klibi briefed President Saddam Husayn on his contacts with the Arab countries for convening the forthcoming Arab summit.

During the meeting, President Saddam Husayn reiterated the need to remain committed to the bases of joint Arab action as Iraq is doing while considering the objective current pan-Arab circumstances as supreme Arab interests. He also said the dangers posing a threat to the Arab nation dictate that all Arab countries abide firmly by the means of joint Arab action.

They also reviewed the situation in the Arab arena and the continued aggression by the Iranian regime against Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Klibi Leaves for Muscat

JN061319 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Baghdad for Muscat at noon today at the end of a shrot visit to Iraq. Klibi attended the opening meeting of the second session of the Arab interior ministers which began here yesterday. Klibi also met with President Saddam Husayn and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

President Receives Arab Interior Ministers

JN061745 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] President Saddam Husayn this evening received the Arab ministers of interior who are participating in the work of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, which is currently convening in Baghdad. The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and minister of interior, and Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im, director of the president's office.

Receives Saudi Interior Minister

LD062205 Riyadh SPA in English 1932 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 6 SPA — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn Received here tonight Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud. They reviewed bilateral relations.

Prince Nayif is currently leading his country's delegation to ongoing meeting of Arab interior ministers in Baghdad. On the other hand Prince Nayif called later tonight on Kuwaiti Interior Minister Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah at his residence here. Prince Nayif Later received the secretary general of the Libyan Popular Committee for Justice Muhammad Sa'id al-Qadhdhafi [spelling of name as received] and the Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri.

Receives Arab Leaders Messages

JN061207 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Mauritanian President Khouna Ould Haydala on the dimensions of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and the situation in the Arab arena. The message was delivered by Mauritanian Interior Minister Ahmedou Ould Adballah when President Saddam Husayn received him at noon today. In his message, the Mauritanian president reiterated his country's support for Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression.

President Saddam Husayn also received at noon today Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri who conveyed to the president an oral message from King Hassan II of Morocco reiterating his country's support for Iraq in its just war against Iran. The two meetings were attended by Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister; and the president's secretary.

Moroccan Interior Minister Departs

JN070932 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Dec (INA) — Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq during which he delivered a message to President Saddam Husayn from King Hassan II of Morocco in which the Moroccan king reiterated his country's support for Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian regime. Basri also attended part of the second Arab interior ministers' council session which will end here later today.

Oil Minister Leaves for London Enroute to Geneva

JN061115 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi left for London today enroute to Geneva at the head of a delegation to attend the OPEC meetings which begin there tomorrow. The minister said that the meetings will deal with a number of organizational issues such as the election of a new secretary general for the organization and the report of the follow-up committee, in addition to matters related to developments in the international oil market.

U.S. Pilot's Body Handed Over to Army

NC071152 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1146 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] We have just been informed that the body of the U.S. pilot, whose plane was downed on Sunday, was handed over to the Lebanese Army at 1305 this afternoon.

The body was moved to the Central Military Hospital by an Army ambulance. The body is expected to be handed over to the Marines force later today.

Marines' Positions Return Gunfire 6 Dec

NC061657 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1649 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The Army positions in Qabr Shmun were subjected to shelling as well as to antiarmor and RPG fire at 1400 today. At 1430, the area of the clashes expanded to include Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat. The shelling eased later.

A security source has stated that gunfire was opened from Hayy as-Sullum on the Marines' positions on the airport road this afternoon. The Marines returned the fire. According to security reports, clashes on the axes in the Al-Kharrub region caused heavy damage to houses and property in the villages there.

Marines Destroy Attack Position in Hayy as-Sullum

NC061918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A security source has reported that since 2000 the Khaldah heights have been subjected to shelling; the shelling is still continuing. The axes in the southern suburbs [of Beirut] and the mountain this evening experienced tension, sniper fire, and rocket-propelled grenades. Suq al-Gharb was also subjected to artillery shelling for a short time.

In another development, according to security information, the position of the U.S. Marines on the airport road was subjected to gunfire at approximately 1800. The source of the gunfire was a position in Hayy as-Sullum. The Marines returned fire at this source and destroyed the position.

VOL Reports Syrians, Palestinians Reinforcing

NC061801 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Regarding the Syrian mobilization, the Syrian forces in Jabal Sannin, 'Uyun Sulayman, and the outskirts of Al-'Akurah have been reinforced with one battalion from the special units, and a SAM-9 missile battalion. New officers were appointed to command these forces. It was learned that the commander of the special units in Sannin is Ahmad Ghannum. In Ta'lbaya, it was learned that the area has witnessed a mobilization among the Palestinian ranks.

Security Committee Reaches Cease-Fire Agreement

NC061519 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Lebanese Army positions in 'Ayn Ksur, Dahr al-Wahsh, and Qabr Shmun are being subjected to artillery shelling from the Syrian-Palestinian-Junblatt emplacements in Al-Fsaqin, 'Alayh, and Baysur. A short while ago some shells fell in the vicinity of the Khaldah Triangle. In the Al-Kharrub region, the Junblatt gunmen are directing their medium-caliber weapons fire at Al-Burjayn, 'Ayn al-Hawr, and Al-Mtullah from their positions in Darayya, Hasrut, and their vicinities. It was reported a short while ago that the attempts of the Security Committee have succeeded in reaching a cease-fire agreement. In Tripoli, clashes are continuing between the Syrian forces and the Islamic Unification Movement in the Al-Qubbah area. Moreover, the clashes between the Palestinians are still continuing in Ba'l Muhsin and Bab at-Tabbanah.

RFL Reports Army Shelling Socialist Emplacements

NC062133 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The Lebanese Army tonight shelled the Socialist-alien aggression emplacements in Sawfar and Ru'aysat Sawfar, inflicting accurate hits on them, which resulted in the destruction of several artillery and missile bases, setting ablaze their munition depots, and killing or wounding their personnel. Earlier, the Army positions in the 'Aramun hills, Al-Qammatiyah, Ra's al-Jabal, Suq al-Gharb, and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah had come under artillery fire from emplacements in 'Aytat and Al-'Abbadiyah. The Army positions in the southern suburbs particularly in the mills, the post, and Mar Mikha'il areas had come under sniper and RPG fire.

Salim To Visit Syria, Saudi Arabia 8 Dec

NC071015 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim will go to Damascus tomorrow morning to meet with his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and discuss the developments in Lebanon and the results of President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to the United States. Minister Salim is scheduled to proceed from Damascus to Saudi Arabia for the same purpose. Minister Salim telephoned Minister Khaddam and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this morning and agreed with them on the dates of the two visits. Salim is expected to return to Beirut on Friday.

Salim Briefs Liaison Committee on Al-Jumayyil Tour

NC061415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim chaired the regular meeting of the Political Committee of the Higher Liaison Body which was held at the Presidential Palace at noon today. The meeting was attended by the ambassadors of France and Britain, the

charges d'affaires of the U.S. and Italian Embassies, the commanders of the Multinational Force, and the Lebanese officers' team.

At the beginning of the meeting, Minister Salim extended condolences on behalf of the president of the republic for the multinational soldiers who were recently martyred in the field of honor. He then put the conferees in the picture regarding President al-Jumayyil's visit to Europe and the United States and the results achieved in this visit. He emphasized the support of the states which President al-Jumayyil visited to the Lebanese Government in its efforts to liberate all the Lebanese territory and to extend the state authority to all Lebanese territory. Minister Salim referred to his imminent visit to the Syrian capital to continue the talks. The head of the operations room in the Presidential Palace then reviewed the security situation in the country, focusing on the continuing violation of the cease-fire and the tragic explosions which resulted in a large number of innocent victims.

VOAL on Al-Jumayyil UK Visit, Security Agreement
NC061533 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has briefed the Cabinet on the results of his visit to Washington and Rome. It has been learned that President al-Jumayyil intends to visit London next week to meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim will visit Damascus to hold consultations with his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam regarding the situation in Lebanon and the area. [Word indistinct] sources revealed to the Voice of Arab Lebanon that a comprehensive security agreement has been reached and that contacts are now underway to implement the agreement. The sources said the details of the agreement were worked out during the recent Rome meeting. The agreement stipulates that internal security forces will assume the responsibility of maintaining security in the southern suburbs [of Beirut] and that the Army positions will [words indistinct] along the contact lines in addition to [words indistinct] Al-Awwali, and the area between Dahr al-Wahsh and [word indistinct]. The Army will assume the responsibility for maintaining security in Suq al-Gharb and some other areas.

Karami on Palestinian Withdrawal, Geneva Talks
JN061529 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Dispatch by Louis Faris]

[Text] Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami is chairman of the Tripoli Higher Coordination Committee and the person entrusted with implementing the agreement that was announced in Damascus on 25 November 1983. He told our radio today that he has held contacts within the framework of this agreement in order to facilitate the mission that was entrusted to him — namely, stabilizing the cease-fire and ensuring the Palestinian fighters' withdrawal, with their weapons, from Tripoli and its environs.

Since this committee is entrusted with supervising the implementation of the agreement, Karami invited the committee to a meeting in Damascus during which the broad outlines and principles [of the agreement] were clearly presented to its members. On this basis, Karami held the necessary contacts and said: We achieved the required final plan today, and the arrangements have been completed. He added that the next few hours might be decisive in this regard. The plan includes ensuring the safety of the withdrawing fighters. It could be said that the positive circumstances are very suitable, and that the plan and the arrangements can be announced soon. He said that the 2-week period stipulated by the agreement will begin after the announcement is made. The agreement will be implemented during this period. He added that everyone's response was good and positive.

Following the Palestinian fighters' withdrawal from Tripoli, security duty for the city will be assumed by the internal security forces in coordination with all local organizations. This is the approved way through which all the gaps on the ground can be filled. Karami did not disclose the details or arrangements of the final plan; however, he said they will be comprehensive and will resolve all current issues, because there will be no complications when this plan is announced.

Concerning the resumption of the Geneva reconciliation conference in light of President al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington, Karami said: We consider the U.S. side responsible for all of our continuing problems — this side which is totally biased to Israel. Therefore, we refuse to have the United States determine our steps or what we should do for our country and interests. He added: The Americans are imagining things if they believe that their hegemony on us has been realized. We demanded the cancellation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, and we are still insisting on this demand. He also said: The Geneva conference will not reconvene without an official and responsible Lebanese stand to clearly determine Lebanese opinions and decisions in light of all the present issues. This is because we do not accept others having a specific vision when there is no official Lebanese stand.

Karami reiterated this by saying: We will give the Lebanese regime our opinion on the Multinational Forces' task. If this task is peaceful, then the U.S. and Israeli aggressions against our people and sovereignty constitute a blatant violation of this task. Thus, it is necessary for the Lebanese Government to find a way for these forces, particularly the U.S. force, to stop their involvement. It is necessary for these forces to withdraw at the earliest possible time, because this withdrawal will save us from having more victims and destruction. Karami concluded: There is currently no use of returning to Geneva, particularly since the United States imagines that it can use Geneva to achieve the accord which suits its policy — a policy aimed at subjugating us either to its ambitions or those of Israel.

Khaddam: No 'All-Out' Confrontation Sought

OW071135 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation, NHK, Syrian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaddam declared that Syria does not want an all-out military confrontation with the United States. He pointed out that this indicates a flexible posture, one of willingness to go to the negotiation table with the United States.

According to Hirayama, our Damascus correspondent, Foreign Minister Khaddam, who holds a key position in the Syrian Government, granted an exclusive interview to NHK on 7 December — a time when tension has mounted between the United States and Syria in the wake of air strikes against Syrian positions by U.S. military aircraft. His interview with NHK correspondent Hirayama took place at the Foreign Ministry in Damascus, and began today at 1630 [0730 GMT], Japan time.

Opening with a reference to U.S.-Syrian relations, which have been characterized by mounting tension in the wake of bombing raids on Syrian positions by U.S. military aircraft, the Syrian foreign minister said that his country does not want war, but had no choice outside of taking countermeasures against U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger's hawkish statements and the repeated reconnaissance flights over Syrian forces.

He said that the United States should realize that the Vietnamization of that region through its own deepened involvement in Lebanon will result in the damaging of U.S. national interests. He explained throughout that Syria does not want an all-out military confrontation with the United States.

Commenting on the status of a U.S. pilot taken prisoner by the Syrians during the 4 December bombing raid, Foreign Minister Khaddam noted that his ultimate disposition will be determined by the future development of tensions between U.S. and Syrian forces in Lebanon. In this way he showed a flexible posture, one which is at variance with certain press reports stating that the pilot will not be released until U.S. forces withdraw from Lebanon.

As to whether or not Syria would receive Rumsfeld, the U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, the foreign minister said that it would depend on the type of proposal he brings with him.

In the same interview, Foreign Minister Khaddam mentioned the health of President al-Asad, who is reported to have been ill. The foreign minister declared that he is gradually regaining his health, and has already resumed some of his state duties. He thus denied a rumor circulating in some quarters that President al-Asad is seriously ill.

Foreign Minister Khaddam's statements during this interview represent the first exposition of the Syrian Government's official stand, and are believed to contain a peace message searching for a clue to dialogue with the United States, despite the tension reportedly mounting between those two countries. Therefore, how the U.S. side responds to this merits attention.

ATH-THAWRAH on U.S. 'Piratical' Raid in Lebanon

JN070949 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 7 Dec (SANA) — In a commentary today, the newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* says: The piratical raid that the U.S. planes carried out against a number of our positions in Lebanon reflects the extent of the U.S. policy's crisis in the region and stresses the seriousness of the course that Washington has adopted toward the Middle East situation. The paper adds: This action is a desperate attempt by President Reagan personally to save what can be saved of the shaky U.S. policy in the Middle East, especially after all other means and methods have failed to infuse life into the initiatives of this policy. *ATH-THAWRAH* continues: Syria does not seek war with the United States. However, should war and aggression be imposed on it, it will fight in a unique, manly, and heroic manner for the sake of its independence and freedom, and defend its sovereignty and will.

The paper stresses that Syrian faith in its just cause is strong, strong with its people, nation, and friends. Moreover, Syria possesses the means and militant experience that will enable it to repulse any aggressive and reckless outburst. The paper adds: The Pentagon bulldozer is powerless to pave the road of the Middle East for U.S. initiatives, starting from Camp David and the Reagan plan, passing through the Jordanian option, and ending with the contract of submission that Washington has imposed on Lebanon. *ATH-THAWRAH* concludes: The U.S. Administration's insistence on the course of aggression and war instead of understanding and just peace will deepen the crisis of U.S. policy, aggravate and further complicate the situation in the region, and place Washington as the major enemy of the Arab nation and its legitimate interests.

U.S. Sources Cited on Air Raids in Lebanon

JN062040 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] A spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department has said that the Pentagon is now considering sending bombers to accompany reconnaissance planes during their next flights over Lebanon. The U.S. spokesman admitted that three U.S. planes were hit during their attack against Syrian positions in Lebanon. He said that two planes were shot down, and claimed that the third was slightly damaged. It is noteworthy that this is the first time that the United States has referred to the third plane, which was shot down the day before yesterday. U.S. sources have also announced that the U.S. President and his military and national security advisers have prepared a plan to step up confrontation with Syria. The sources have described this plan as an emergency.

Commenting on the downing of the U.S. planes, Eugene (Carroll), a retired pilot, said that the U.S. losses will lead to difficulties if these air raids are repeated or if the U.S. military interference in Lebanon is escalated. The U.S. admiral also pointed out that when the United States loses 8 percent of its attacking planes, these air raids usually become useless. U.S.

Senator Barry Goldwater called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon, and stated that the United States is proceeding in the direction of war. Voice of America cited Goldwater as saying that the U.S. forces' withdrawal from Lebanon has become a pressing matter, particularly after the increase of casualties among U.S. Marines in Lebanon.

Brzezinski, former presidential adviser for national security, said that Israel has a big interest in dragging the United States into a war with Syria in Lebanon. Speaking in a television interview last night, Brzezinski said that the U.S. raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon will lift the pressure from Israel and help it to move more freely. Brzezinski was also cited as saying that the United States has been dragged into a situation that harms its positions in the region. Former Secretary of Defense Harold Brown said that there is neither logic nor sense in expanding the U.S. clashes in the Middle East. In a television interview broadcast last night, Brown warned that the current problem in Lebanon keeps the United States away from concentrating on the entire region in general. Commenting on the U.S. planes' shelling of Syrian positions in Lebanon, the *WASHINGTON POST* said that the United States must realize that Syria has enjoyed a traditional status in Lebanon for ages, and that the Lebanese admit that Syria has security interests n their country.

Israeli enemy sources disclosed last night that the U.S. planes that attacked the Syrian positions in Lebanon had used the internationally prohibited cluster bombs. The Israeli sources were hinting at the fact that the United States has continued to supply Israel with this type of bombs for use in shelling the Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese positions. The Israeli sources were also trying to indicate that Washington had earlier stopped supplying cluster bombs to Israel.

AL-BA'TH on 'Confronting' U.S.-Israeli 'Danger'

JN070818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Confronting the Danger Depends on Serious Stands," *AL-BA'TH* writes: There is a semi-global consensus that the strategic alliance agreement concluded between the United States and Israel last week during Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's visit to Washington does more than simply pose a threat to peace and security in the Middle East. Indeed, the threat posed by this alliance goes beyond our region in view of the role which Israel is playing and will play in various parts of the world at the instructions of the U.S. Administration. *AL-BA'TH* adds: We in Syria are fully aware of the danger represented by the U.S.-Zionist alliance — not only to Syria but to the entire Arab nation as well. However, we would like the Arab brothers to realize the seriousness of this hostile agreement before it is too late. We are not saying anything new because the Western papers, 2 days ago, stressed that there is a U.S.-Israeli plan for a large-scale military operation against Syria in hopes of taming it. What does taming Syria mean? It clearly means the foiling of the last line of confrontation, which in turn means placing the Arab region under U.S.-Israeli hegemony.

AL-BA'TH notes: Everyone should know that the U.S. Administration — which appeased some in our Arab homeland through its peace proposals — has flagrantly exposed its hostility toward all Arab aspirations. This occurred when it definitively relinquished its role as a superpower responsible for safeguarding world peace and became a direct partner in heightening tension in the Middle East and in bringing the region to the brink of a war which may extend to other regions and have ominous consequences that cannot be predicted.

We believe that pan-Arab duty dictates that we all move quickly to confront this danger, which poses a threat to our existence as a nation. The choice today is between protecting our pan-Arab interests, safeguarding our dignity, and defending our land and existence on the one hand, and, on the other, having the region fall under the umbrella of the new U.S.-Israeli alliance.

Commentary on U.S. Plans, Pan-Arab Duties

JN061633 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Syria's pan-Arab duties compel it to act with the knowledge of the Arabs, particularly when the situation is related to the homeland's destiny and the nation's future. Syria — the pan-Arab weight which burdens the United States and Israel — should be the country that is closest to the masses both in the confrontation and in its adherence to a firm principle and belief. Therefore, our leader, Al-Asad, sent messages to his counterparts in the fraternal countries. While Syria does not seek assistance, it does draw the attention of Arab leaders to the perils that will threaten the homeland and the nation should an attitude of indifference continue toward U.S. hostility to the Arabs and its alliance with Israel. As it awakens and warns all the Arabs — both rulers and masses — Syria is at the same time determined to remain their protective shield and the solid wall separating Arab land from the Zionist octopus and U.S. hegemony.

In the name of the forceful U.S. presence in Beirut, Reagan wishes to open his arms and encircle our territory without meeting any opposition to his crimes and objectives — which can no longer be separated from those of Israel. Under the pretext of defending U.S. Marines, Reagan has legalized the bloodshed involving our sons and the destruction of our land. At the same time, Reagan claims that his soliders are in Lebanon for the sake of peace and security. Despite this contradiction, can the master of the White House simultaneously mount the two horses of war and peace? There is no doubt that Reagan, as described by U.S. politicians, has lost his bearings and been blinded by the position of the presidency, for the sake of which he is trying to destroy the entire world.

We are not concerned with who rules the United States. We are primarily concerned with the right to defend our lives, our soldiers, and our national and pan-Arab borders. We in Syria — as the leader Al-Asad put it in his messages to his Arab counterparts — are determined to defend both our land, and our national

and pan-Arab interests. We in Syria did not draw the sword of hostility against the United States; it is the U.S. leadership that chose confrontation and put itself in a state of war with us, at a point far from its own borders. The Reagan administration wants to strip us of all options while concluding deals with our enemy, who occupies our land and is preparing to destroy our will. Although some Arabs have defended the U.S. plans under the pretext that Washington is a mediator for peace, there can be no justification for U.S. behavior concerning the agreements which Reagan signed with the leaders of Zionist terrorism. The United States, which is seeking to influence the entire world, has chosen the Arab homeland as an area for its experiments and as a field for its nuclear warfare. This stems from the fact that it ignores any Arab presence on its political map and considers the Zionists to be an alternative to all the Arabs in Arab territory. It is clear that the step taken by the leader Al-Asad to draw attention to the U.S. danger was not a result of current circumstances. When the documents on U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation were signed 2 years ago, Syria called on the Arabs to take a stand, and warned of Israeli action against Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance forces. However, the appeasement of the U.S. White House continued. Therefore, Lebanon was stormed and Beirut was besieged.

While it calls for a position that maximizes Arab identity, Syria considers any new appeasement of the United States to be a conspiracy against the Arabs' destiny and existence. We can now tell good from evil. By its alliance with Israel, the United States is determined to subjugate our land, our wealth, and the gates of our large homeland to the ambitions of the Zionist leadership. However, despite all the possibilities to which the Arab position might be subjected, Syria has defined its plans in accordance with its right to determine its own options and decisions. Nor will it allow the parties of aggression to control the decisions of war and peace; this is so because the land is ours, the cause for which we struggle is ours, and because we have chosen to exist.

This is what Syria is and it revealed its positions a short time ago. It also has decided to break the ring of Zionist strength, a fact that made the United States compensate Israel for its losses in confronting Syrian will. Therefore, the United States has become Israel's partner and has formed a joint staff with it in order to deprive the Arabs of their independent force and will. Syria can also find the necessary means and methods to correct the regional balance for the sake of preserving the Arab nation's existence — both now and in the future — and for the sake of defending Arab citizens and the nation's dignity, civilization, and role in the international arena. Syria has issued its warning. Will the Arabs allow the United States to determine their destiny, or will they precede events and find in Syria that which will strengthen their will and place regional decisionmaking in their own hands?

Palestine Broadcast on U.S. Plans For PLO

JN062008 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Palestine broadcast: From the "On the Events" program]

[Text] The dimensions of the U.S. conspiracies in the region are more than obvious. They are being concocted within the plans the U.S. Administration drew up at Camp David, and Ronald Reagan has adopted and developed them in the initiative that carries his name and that aims at spreading U.S. hegemony over the region and imposing capitulation on the region.

There are two sides to the U.S. conspiracy. The first tries to consolidate and peddle the Shultz agreement, the agreement of submission which was imposed on Lebanon, in order to face the Syrian-Lebanese nationalist opposition to this agreement. The second side seeks to resume Camp David in the presence of King Husayn, who would have an authorization from Yasir 'Arafat or be at the head of a joint delegation including Yasir 'Arafat's representatives. The aggressive U.S. escalation in Lebanon is linked to the U.S. endeavor to achieve these two goals, especially the second side concerning King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. The Americans want to realize this step before two possible developments. The first is Yasir 'Arafat's fate and the possibility of his departure from the PLO leadership, and consequently losing the possibility to exploit his alleged legitimacy — something they want as an alternative to the legitimacy of the PLO's institutions and the powers that are defined by the basic laws of these institutions.

They view Yasir 'Arafat as a lemon to be squeezed and thrown away. They want to make this move in order to undermine the Palestine question by exploiting Yasir 'Arafat's selfishness, his involvement in the capitulatory method, and the worship of his rightist mentality — if there are no more dangerous dimensions in the man's background that define a role for him in confronting the Palestinian people and their revolution and cause. On the other hand, they also want to complete this step before the U.S. presidential elections. Ronald Reagan is careful not to enter the elections while the Americans have the image of hundreds of U.S. Marines killed in Lebanon, and the sight of the U.S. planes destroyed as a result of aggression. He wants to reap the fruits of his aggressive policy during the few months preceding the elections in order to use them as a card of force that will assist him in remaining in the White House for a second presidential term.

Between Ronald Reagan's calculations and Yasir 'Arafat's role, King Husayn has a suitable chance for making a devilish deal patterned after the one that his grandfather made in 1948. He has prepared himself for that deal, and he is only waiting for Yasir 'Arafat to come to Amman in order to use him as a Palestinian authorization to make that deal. Then the curtain will be dropped on the role of Yasir 'Arafat and the others, after they have committed their big historical crime. All of this will not cancel the realities in a region, such as ours, that is full of conflict. The Palestinian people and the Arab masses will not yield to the plans that are drawn up by Reagan and implemented by the tyrannical reactionaries. Struggle will fiercely and violently continue against the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary troika until the Arab masses are able to realize the victory of their will over the aggressive forces.

UK's Luce Makes Statement, Departs 5 Dec

JN051950 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1850 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Richard Luce, British minister of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus today after a 3-day visit to Syria. Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; the director of the West European desk; the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; the British ambassador in Damascus; and the British Embassy staff saw the British minister off at Damascus International Airport. Before his departure, Luce held a news conference in which he expressed his happiness at visiting Syria. He said: My talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Faruq ash-Shar' were both successful and useful. We exchanged opinions on several Middle Eastern issues, with particular emphasis on the situation in Lebanon. Luce added that the Syrian Government's stand on Lebanon is identical to that of the British Government, which asserts the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon's land and people.

Luce declared that Syria can play a large and important role in satisfying all of the region's unresolved causes and ending the Lebanese crisis. Luce recommended that all efforts be made to hold the Lebanese national dialogue conference in order to stop the fighting raging in that country, and to reach a just solution that will guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

PLO Claims Responsibility for Jerusalem Explosion

TA061409 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The PLO has assumed responsibility for the bomb blast in the Jerusalem bus. This was said in announcement given to Radio Monte Carlo. This is reported by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus. The PLO announcement says that the terrorist act was carried out by a squad of the Palestinian revolution named for one of the PLO members; it was noted that such actions will continue. The terrorists claim that the bus which was hit was a military vehicle.

Shamir Promises Punishment

TA061538 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1535 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] We have a reaction by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the terrorist act in Jerusalem: The prime minister says that the security forces are making all possible efforts to discover the perpetrators of this criminal terrorist act and when discovered they will be punished appropriately. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reported this reaction by Yitzhaq Shamir.

41 Suspects Detained

TA061613 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The security forces have detained 41 people in Jerusalem for interrogation following the blast in the bus. Four people were killed and 46 wounded in the explosion in the Jerusalem bus today. These details were given in an official police announcement. One of the wounded persons is in critical condition. The wounded are hospitalized in the Sha'arey Tzedeq and Hadassah-'En Kerem hospitals in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that reinforced police units are maintaining order in the city and it is quiet. The police have requested the public to remain alert.

Finance Minister Releases U.S. Aid Figures

TA061259 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by Shraga Meqel and Yitzhaq Dish]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is prepared to increase economic aid to Israel from $910 million in 1984 to $1.2 billion in 1985, in addition to increasing the share of the grant in security aid from $850 million to $1.4 billion. Altogether, the United States is prepared to give Israel aid totalling $2.6 billion in 1985 — $1.76 billion as a grant and the rest — $850 million — as a loan. This willingness by the U.S. Administration to come toward Israel's request on the aid issue was reported yesterday by Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad to the Knesset Finance Committee. Aid in 1985 will reach 40 percent of the total expected deficit in Israel's balance of payments in 1983.

Kohen-Orgad also commented that with the aid of the free trade zone with the United States, it would be possible to export about $2.5 billion there in another 3 years. Referring to the government's policy of encouraging exports, the finance minister said that the status of "approved factory" would in future be given only to factories manufacturing products that penetrate the export market and which do not replace imports of goods not manufactured in Israel. He said that in 1984, the availability of credit for production would be increased, but the weight of the subsidized credit for encouraging exports would be decreased, and a large section of the aid would be given in debit account credits. Kohen-Orgad rejected the proposals about a proliferation of foreign currency accounts, and said that the policy of encouraging exports would be based on a single, real rate of exchange. Regarding the state of the economy, the finance minister said it was now in a "partial slump" as a result of the freeze on government ministries.

Economic Attache Comments on U.S. Agreement

TA032027 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Dec 83

[Interview by Elimelekh Ram with Dan Halperin, economic attache at the Israeli Embassy to the United States, in Washington — date not given, videotaped]

[Text] [Halperin] What we have primarily received is an opportunity to export to the United States in both the civilian and military fields, but this is not a gift. We have received the right to compete with U.S. manufacturers, first of all, in the security field, in which I hope we will be able to sell more to the Pentagon and to companies that supply us with military products. In future, when we complete the negotiations over a free trade zone, we will be given the opportunity to compete more in the United States with U.S. manufacturers.

[Ram] Do you think that Israeli industry is capable of competing with U.S. industry?

[Halperin] Today, we are exporting more than $1.25 million worth of civilian products to the United States annually. We will certainly be able to export more if and when the customs duties, which are not that high today, go down to zero.

[Ram] Let us look at economic and military aid. Are the Americans making the aid they are prepared to give us dependent on Israel's economic policy?

[Halperin] They are not making it dependent, but they are very much aware of the need for an economic policy that will solve our economic problems from within, especially Secretary of State Shultz, who is an economist. He is raising this issue, and takes an interest in hearing what we are doing. I believe that in the near future we will renew the work of the two countries' economic teams. Our finance minister has agreed to this.

I predict that in January there will be meetings between the Finance Ministry heads from Israel — perhaps the finance minister himself — and the team established by the U.S. State Department for this purpose.

Budget for West Bank Village Leagues Decreased
TA041219 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] The erosion in the status of the Arab area village leagues in the occupied territories is expressed in the size of budget which has been put at their disposal in the current fiscal year, which totals a mere 100 million shekels. It was reported from the civilian administration that this sum constitutes only about a third of what was allocated to the area village leagues a year earlier and this means that they have lost the special status they enjoyed in the eyes of the Israeli authorities.

Funds Again Funneled to West Bank Settlements
TA051202 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry has recently received a budget of hundreds of millions of shekels for strengthening the Judaea and Samaria settlements. This budget had previously been frozen by the Finance Ministry. Our correspondent Tzvi Zerahya has the details on this:

[Begin recording] The Finance Ministry has unfrozen hundreds of millions of shekels for construction projects in Judaea and Samaria, in light of a categorical demand by the Housing Ministry to strengthen settlement in Judaea and Samaria. The building of permanent structures and public buildings in the settlement of Hermesh in northern Samaria will begin in the coming days. In addition, roads will be built and streets will be paved near the settlements of Nili and Yaqir in Samaria. The settlement of Adora, in southern Hebron Hills, is being expanded, and the infrastructure for the settlement of Neve Deqalim in the Gaza Strip is also being strengthened. The Housing Ministry has also decided to build a system of shelters and a children's home in Kibbutz Lotem in the Galilee.

This is the second time since the introduction of the tight economic measures that the Housing Ministry has spurred the settlement momentum in Judaea and Samaria. About a month ago it was decided to increase the number of housing units in several Judaea and Samaria settlements. [end recording]

Lubrani Comments on Lifting of Dayr al-Qamar Siege
TA041822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Text] Druze leader Walid Junblatt has decided to lift the siege, for 10 days, from the Christian town of Dayr al-Qamar. Our editor Gil'ad Sher asked Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israel's activities in Lebanon, what Israel's role was in Junblatt's decision to lift the siege:

[Begin Lubrani recording] Walid Junblatt's statement that he is prepared to lift the siege from the Christian town of Dayr al-Qamar came, inter alia, as a result of groundwork done by Israel over a long time. This willingness by Junblatt is proof that there is an essential need for dialogue with Druze leaders to bring about such cooperation which, in the final analysis, reinforces the principle of dialogue and coexistence among the sects, for the welfare of Christians, among other things. [end recording]

As for the Druze claims that their people were hit by yesterday's Israeli Air Force bombing, Lubrani said:

[Begin recording] As far as we know, no Druze were hurt in yesterday's bombing, but this may only be happenstance. I must point out that we will continue to seek out the terrorists in the Ash-Shuf area wherever they are. It is not important whether they are Druze or merely among Druze or among others. We will work against them everywhere in order to safeguard our security and that of our soldiers. Many times in the past I, personally, have taken the opportunity to warn the Druze leaders about the possibility that Druze may be hit in places where they are close to terrorists. [end recording]

Correspondent on Proposed U.S. Arms Sale to Iraq
TA040640 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Dec 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report from the United States by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] Washington — The United States intends to sell arms to Iraq and to help it win against Iran. This was the impression gained by the Israeli delegation that held talks with U.S. Administration leaders in Washington last week.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned that the U.S. delegation expressed to the Israeli guests a great deal of concern about the danger to the West's interests in the Persian Gulf region.

The Americans see real danger in the possibility of Iran defeating Iraq and in Khomeyni's influence being extended to the Persian Gulf states. The Americans hinted that they wanted to hear Israel's reaction to a possible U.S. arms sale to Iraq to help it win the war against Iran. The Israelis expressed opposition to the U.S. arms sale to Iraq, characterizing Saddam Husayn's regime as an "insane regime."

It has further been learned that Israel does not indirectly aid Iran in its war against Iraq. The Israeli delegation denied sales of equipment to the Khomeyni regime. The Americans reemphasized their position in favor of selling modern arms to Jordan, explaining this is aimed at making it easier to defend Western interests in the Persian Gulf.

Press on U.S. Policy in Middle East
TA060944 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HATZOFE* writes that the road President Reagan has taken this time is a firm one, but can also complicate matters. From Israel's point of view, the tough stand vis a vis Syria should be regarded favorably, but it is not in Israel's interest to have the regional conflict turn into a world conflict between the superpow-

ers, because in that case different rules will apply. Israel will not be able to control superpower rules in such a fight. Superpowers, by their very nature, are incapable of entering the Middle East conflict, where the participants are many and varied, such as dozens of terrorist organizations belonging to various individual leaders or countries. A massive intervention by the United States cannot, therefore, resolve the war in Lebanon, unless the United States brings the whole of its military might to bear. The shellings and bombings carried out this week will not serve as a warning to Syria, because Syria's policy adheres to no logical rules. Syria's road is paved with violence, as part of the political struggle. No major power can enter that kind of quagmire, unless it decides to deal Syria a decisive blow.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that the impression gained from the prime minister's speech in the Knesset is that he hopes to focus the attention of the Knesset and the nation solely on the achievements attained in his Washington visit, and ignore the escalation in Lebanon. The achievements in Washington should by no means be taken lightly, and Mr. Shamir deserves due credit for them. He has modestly noted that objective developments, mainly in Lebanon, were primarily responsible for the improved relations between Israel and the United States. These closer ties between the two countries are certainly to be welcomed, but there are nagging worries in view of the exacerbating situation in Lebanon. Mr. Shamir will have to prove, in a more convincing manner, that such worries are needless.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that a tendency toward toughness and showing strength has increased in the United States in the past year. President Reagan himself sets the tone of this policy. In addition to all this, we must not forget that the approaching elections confront the U.S. President with a very serious challenge. If he were to succeed, as planned, in moving all the foreign forces out of Lebanon and consolidating the Al-Jumayyil regime, Mr. Reagan would no doubt be able to present this as a major achievement. But with no such settlement in sight, the continued presence of the U.S. Marines will come to be looked at as a sort of second Vietnam. There is no need to remind ourselves of the Vietnam trauma, which is still vivid in the consciousness of the United States and its people. It is not for us to give advice to the United States, but Israel should have been out of Lebanon a long time ago, and it certainly should not take part in President Reagan's gambling games.

Further Press Commentary

TA061007 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *MA'ARIV* writes that coordination with the United States has always been an issue which Israel's two major political parties saw as an important goal of Israel's foreign policy. The deep Soviet involvement in our region has lent additional weight to this goal and in no way detracted from its vital importance.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT believes that what is happening in Lebanon now depends solely on the Soviet Union. Israel would do well not to take part in this dangerous confrontation, because we are not interested in becoming Washington's Cubans. Only the jeopardizing of our vital national interests could change this stand.

Editorial Discusses U.S. Air Strike in Lebanon

TA051223 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Dec 83 p 8

[Moshe Zaq Editorial: "The Planes That Did Not Return"]

[Text] The 20 planes that took off at dawn yesterday from the *Kennedy* and *Independence* aircraft carriers to attack Syrian anti-aircraft positions in the Lebanese mountains did not act on the basis of prior coordination with Israel.

Not only were the planes outdated, so was the technique: It was as if an agreement between the Israeli and U.S. Governments on coordination and military cooperation had not been achieved yet.

When a U.S. or an Israeli plane leaves for an offensive mission, especially against missile batteries, one cannot guarantee a 100-percent success; however, the Israeli pilots' experience in coping with surface-to-air missiles is greater. During the Peace for Galilee war, Israeli pilots managed to destroy at one time all the Soviet missile positions in Lebanon. After Israel and the United States reached an understanding on military cooperation in Lebanon there was certainly no problem for Israel to give the Americans information of this sort when U.S. aircraft set out for offensive missions against the bases of a common enemy of the United States and Israel. However, the impression given yesterday was that the Marine command that operated the aircraft preferred "to keep a distance" from Israel and not to coordinate the strike with it.

This is the wind blowing in the Pentagon today: Despite the public announcement by the President on an agreement for military cooperation in Lebanon, Pentagon experts still believe that cooperation with Israel is a burden to U.S. policy in the Middle East. The angry declarations made by "moderate" Arab rulers against the declaration regarding Israeli-U.S. cooperation encourage Pentagon experts to delay as much as possible this cooperation in the area. Since the joint Israeli-U.S. working teams, which are supposed to work out the details of military cooperation, have not yet begun their work, these experts have a good excuse to justify the absence of practical cooperation with Israel. However, without coordination the Marines at Beirut's airport and the pilots who take off from the *Kennedy* aircraft carrier are exposed to more dangers.

The U.S. bombing was aimed at conveying a message to the Syrians that their presence in Lebanon will not be worth their while. A similar message was conveyed to them by Israeli and French aircraft, each separately; and the more successful the missions are the stronger the message and the better it is understood.

This is not the case when the Syrians manage to shoot down two U.S. planes. The success of their missiles may cause the Syrians to turn their heads and spur on their determination to stay in Lebanon.

The United States and Israel do not seek pretexts for a confrontation with Syria. They would prefer the Syrians to take the hint and evacuate Lebanon of their own free will, but any flaw in the U.S. signal to the Syrians, as was the case yesterday, stiffens Damascus' stance and extends the Syrians' stay in Lebanon, a stay which contains many dangers for the entire region.

Walid Junblatt, in contrast, did understand the signal by Israel. After Israel bombed bases of Junblatt's accomplices in the Sawfar and Bhamdun areas on Saturday he understood Israel's warning: that Israel may break into Dayr al-Qamar in order to bring food and medicine to the besieged Christians. Therefore, Junblatt announced yesterday he was lifting the siege from this town where 20,000 poor Christian refugees are presently crowded.

Also the Syrians, Junblatt's allies, may prefer the path of settlement to a possible confrontation with Israel or with the United States, but convincing them of this depends, first and foremost, on a "clean" delivery of the aerial warnings, namely, on accurate bombings without the holes that occurred yesterday.

In order to guarantee more success, the U.S. generals will have to overcome their political inhibitions and not lend too much of an ear to the warnings by the "moderate" Arabs against cooperation with Israel.

The lack of coordination also became clear when the United States agreed to the flying of the UN flag on the boats that will evacuate PLO terrorists from Tripoli.

This symbolic aegis extended by the United Nations to armed terrorists, to a terrorist organization, is a direct continuation of that shameful resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly which allowed 'Arafat to speak from the UN rostrum with his pistol at his waist.

In the course of the UN General Assembly session the United States opposed giving the floor to 'Arafat, but this time it voted with the other UN Security Council members in favor of extending the UN aegis to the PLO evacuees from Tripoli. The U.S. Government asked for Israel's opinion indeed, but despite Israel's objection the United States agreed to the flying of a UN flag on the boats that will carry 'Arafat-led armed terrorists out of Tripoli.

The Americans claim that the most important point is evacuating the foreign forces from Lebanon, that now the Lebanese Army will be able to enter Tripoli.

However, even if this has a short-term benefit, in the long term we have the precedent of flying a UN flag on boats with armed terrorists whose declared objective is to liquidate a country established in accordance with a UN resolution.

This was a miserable decision and should also be attributed to the fact that the coordination agreed upon in Washington has still not been acted upon, is still going through a trial run, and is still facing numerous obstacles.

The downing of the two planes by the Syrian missiles may help the Pentagon generals to overcome their psychological inhibitions for the sake of coordination agreed upon by the U.S. President and the Israeli prime minister. We are not talking here of a joint war but of a common effort to establish peace in Lebanon, since Lebanon should ultimately turn into a buffer zone between Israel and Syria, and the two countries are entitled to security zones on their borders.

New Underground Unit Reportedly Organizing

TA050937 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The French weekly *LE POINT* reports that a right-wing underground movement is organizing in Israel. It has succeeded in concealing vast amounts of arms and its members will attempt to take over a part of the territories.

The paper's correspondent notes that the source of this information comes from several members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, but does not name them.

Pan-African Telecommunications Meeting Opens

AB061940 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Under the chairmanship of Gakou Fatour Niang, minister of information and communications, a technical seminar sponsored by the Pan-African Telecommunications Network [PANAFTEL] opened this morning in Bamako. The seminar, devoted to the issues of maintenance and management, is being attended by delegates from Benin, Upper Volta, Niger, Senegal, and Mali. Representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency [CIDA] — a Canadian Government institution involved in the PANAFTEL project — are also taking part. PANAFTEL is a network connecting the national telecommunications networks of several African countries. It includes Benin, Upper Volta, Mali, Niger, and Senegal, and is financed by CIDA. The aim of the project is to establish direct links among African countries. The seminar, which opened today, will examine ways and means of maintaining and managing the PANAFTEL network.

PANA Technical Committee Meets in Dakar

AB062045 Paris AFP in French 1504 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, 6 Dec (AFP) — A meeting of the PANA technical committee began on Monday in Dakar for the purpose of reviewing the agency's 6 months of operation and its 1984 work program.

Opening the session, PANA's director general, Cheikh Ousmane Diallo, invited the technical committee to examine the means by which all African countries may be in a position to receive PANA's services.

According to Mr Diallo, PANA currently transmits 15,000 words per day — a figure in excess of forecasts made on its 25 May inauguration. The service is monitored by most national agencies equipped with receivers in southern, central, and eastern Africa.

The PANA director also stressed the need to obtain preferential telecommunications rates for African press agencies, the activities and development of which are thwarted by high operational costs.

The meeting of the PANA technical committee, scheduled to end on Friday, is being attended by the technical directors of those press agencies which host the PANA headquarters and its regional pools, as well as by engineers from the International Telecommunications Union and experts from UNESCO.

ALGERIA

Ibrahimi Receives USSR's Marshal Ogarkov

LD071252 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau, received Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, this morning.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Al-Asad

LD061412 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a written message from the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad, dealing with the latest developments in the Arab region following the escalation of the situation by the Americans and the Zionists.

In his message, President al-Asad pointed to the dangers inherent in the American intervention in Lebanon. He noted the risk of it developing into direct military aggression against Syria and the Arab nation, particularly in the wake of the American-Israeli strategic pact, which not only links American interests to those of the Zionists, but also places the great American potential at their disposal, allowing them to seriously threaten the peace, security, and interests of the Arab nation.

The Syrian president affirmed his country's determination to safeguard its independence and defend Arab rights against any possible aggression and all Zionist expansionist designs.

The message was conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution by Munir Barikhan, head of the Syrian Arab Relations Bureau in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

U.S. Allegedly Searches Grenada Mission

NC070728 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Five U.S. intelligence agents broke into the Libyan Arab People's Bureau on Grenada following the recent barbaric U.S. invasion of that island. The U.S. intelligence agents searched the bureau in blatant violation of international law and diplomatic norms.

This flagrant, savage action reflects the shameful conduct of the U.S. intelligence agency and its disregard for international law and norms.

MAURITANIA

Minnih Receives Al-Asad Note, Libyan, PLO Envoys

AB070815 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Major Ahmed Ould Minnih received the Syrian ambassador to our country yesterday, who delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN], Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala. The message concerned recent developments in the Arab situation.

The foreign minister also received the secretary of the People's Liaison Office of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Mauritania. At the end of the audience, the Libyan diplomat told the press that he and the minister examined ways and means of strengthening cooperation in all fields.

The third person to be received by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation was the PLO's representative in Nouakchott. Their talks centered on the crisis within the PLO. Maj Ould Minnih's final guest was the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Mauritania. Their discussion was devoted to the strengthening of bilateral relations.

MOROCCO

Portuguese Army Chief of Staff Arrives

LD061343 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Rabat, Dec 6 (MAP) — General Jose Lomos Ferreira, Portuguese Army's chief of staff arrived here Monday on five day official visit to Morocco.

ETHIOPIA

Libya's Jallud Departs After Talks 6 December

EA061909 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brother Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Great Al-Fatih Revolution, left for home this afternoon at the end of his working visit. Before departure he held talks on bilateral issues with Comrade Fikre Selassie Wogderes, Provisional Military Administrative Council secretary general, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and COPWE Executive Committee member. The talks at the National Palace centered on strengthening the already existing economic cooperation.

KENYA

Leaders To Attend Independence Celebrations

AB061913 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Nairobi, Dec, 6 (AFP) — King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho and at least 10 African presidents are to attend Kenya's on-going 20th independence anniversary celebrations here, Foreign Minister Elijah Mwangale said today.

He named the presidents as Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Milton Obote of Uganda, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza of Burundi, Ja'far Numayri of Sudan, Mohamed Siad Barre of Somalia, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, Hassan Gouled Apidon of Djibouti and Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, who is also current Organization of African Unity (OAU) chairman.

Other dignitaries will include Botswana's vice president, the Gabonese prime minister, Zimbabwe's deputy prime minister, and the spiritual leader of the Ismaili community, the agha khan.

Mr. Mwangale said the celebrations would also be attended by representatives of various governments from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Arab world, as well as representatives of international organizations and Africa's liberation movements.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Tanzania

EA062024 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The signing yesterday of an agreement on cooperation between Kenya and Tanzania has been described as proof that the people of the two countries are committed to work together for the progress of the region.

According to the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mangale, the latest developments in eastern Africa are a milestone in the spirit of good-neighborliness. The minister told newsmen soon after his arrival from Arusha that Kenya is proud to be associated with these positive developments. He assured Tanzanians that Kenya will not be found wanting in this spirit of cooperation. The 2-day ministerial meeting which culminated in the signing of the agreement was preceded by another meeting with experts from Kenya and Tanzania.

Under the agreement the two countries will cooperate in general trade framework, transit trade border trade, and trade in livestock. A joint trade committee will be established to consider means of furthering trade and sorting out problems that may arise. There are also several other areas of cooperation agreed upon between the two countries.

TANZANIA

Mozambique's Chissano To Meet With Nyerere

MB061930 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The Mozambican foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, is in Tanzania where he is expected to meet President Julius Nyerere. On arrival at Dar es Salaam Airport today, Mr Chissano told reporters that he had brought a special message for President Nyerere. He gave no details but said: We always come to discuss developmental and other issues regarding our two countries.

President Nyerere is at present chairing a meeting of the Central Committee of Tanzania's Revolutionary Party in the central town of Dodoma, which is being developed as Tanzania's new capital. Mr Chissano was due to fly to Dodoma to see the Tanzanian leader.

BENIN

Kerekou Holds Talks With Mitterrand Envoy

AB062215 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The head of state, President Kerekou, held talks this afternoon with Guy Penne, adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand for African and Malagasy affairs. Guy Penne, who was accompanied by one of his close aides, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, is currently on a tour of Africa. Tiamiou Adjibade, our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, also accompanied the visitors to the president's office. The talks were held in the presence of the French ambassador to the People's Republic of Benin, Hugues Homo.

Following the talks, President Francois Mitterrand's adviser for African and Malagasy affairs told our colleague, Sylvestre Zomahou, that he conveyed a message from President Francois Mitterrand to our great comrade in struggle.

[Begin recording] [Penne] I have been in the service of the president of the republic for 2 years. As adviser for African and Malagasy affairs, I frequently visit foreign countries. I have not been to Benin for some time, and this visit falls within the framework of the frequent contacts between Benin and France. The French president and President Kerekou often hold talks. On this occasion, I brought a message from the French president, and we discussed a number of African and bilateral issues.Our talks were a prelude to the visit that Christian Nucci, minister delegate to the Ministry of External Relations for cooperation, will make here in 1 month's time.

[Zomahou] How are France's relations with the African states, and in particular with Benin, 2 months after the Vittel summit?

[Penne] I believe relations are excellent. [end recording].

GHANA

Cocoa Farmers 'Fully Paid' by State Company

AB061200 Paris AFP in English 0716 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Accra, Dec 6 (AFP) For the first time in a decade, Ghana's cocoa farmers were fully paid by the state produce buying company for the 1982/83 season, a cocoa board official reported. Mr Kwesi Ahwoi, a member of the board's monitoring committee, said that "likewise, every cocoa bean purchased during the past year has been evacuated from the hinterland to the ports for export."

The government had increased the producer price of cocoa for the 1983/84 crop season to 600 cedis per 30 kilos, compared with 360 cedis previously (30 cedis: one dollar).

Mr Ahwoi confirmed that the issuing Central Bank of Ghana had supplied adequate funds to commercial banks to cover payments in full for cocoa and coffee purchases in 1983/84.

LIBERIA

Foreign Minister Returns From South Korea

AB061951 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Liberian Foreign Minister T. Ernest Eastman is back home after holding talks with President Chon Tu-hwan of Korea. The discussions centered on major international issues including developments in northeast Asia and southern Africa. Foreign Minister Eastman also held discussions with other Korean Government officials, including the Korean foreign minister. Bilateral issues between Liberia and Korea were also talked about.

MALI

Traore Receives France's Guy Penne 6 December

AB070755 Bamako Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Yesterday morning, the president of the republic received Guy Penne, President Mitterrand's special adviser for African and Malagasy affairs. The strengthening of French-Malian cooperation, the Chadian, Western Saharan, and Namibian issues, and the development of North-South relations were the major topics discussed during the audience.

NIGER

Kountche Suspects Libya in 6 Oct Coup Attempt

AB061806 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 6 (AFP) — President Seyni Kountche of Niger said today he suspected the Libyan secret services of being behind the plotters who tried to overthrow him two months ago while he was in France for the Franco-African summit.

Before leaving Cairo for Jidda after a four-day official visit to Egypt, General Kountche said this view was based on the latest findings of an inquiry he had ordered to discover what internal or external support the plotters had.

The plot leader, Presidential Security Adviser Amadou "Bonkano" Oumarou, fled the country after the October 6 coup attempt failed.

President Kountche said that the Armed Forces and the people played no part in the conspiracy. "The Army proved its fidelity not to one man, but to a philosophy: the defence of national sovereignty," he added.

On his country's future, President Kountche said that a "charter" would be drawn up soon covering "all aspects of economic and social life, and notably taking up the problems of young people and women." A constitution would follow "to conclude a

marriage of hearts and minds between the Army and the people," he added, stressing that the Army would have "wide representation on supreme bodies, because it is no different from other sectors of the population."

President Kountche, who had more than three hours of talks on Sunday with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, said that most of his discussions in Egypt had covered the development of bilateral cooperation. Military aid had been discussed, he said, but gave no details.

An agreement on the sale of uranium from Niger to Egypt, signed today, mentioned no precise quantities, President Kountche said. He indicated it was a purchase undertaking by Egypt, to come into effect from 1985. Egypt plans to build eight nuclear power plants, supplying 40 percent of its needs, by the end of the century.

NIGERIA

Shagari Unable To Attend Kenyan Celebrations

AB062004 Lagos NAN in English 1758 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, Dec. 6 (NAN) — The minister for external affairs, Chief Emeka Anyaokum is to represent Nigeria at Kenya's independence anniversary celebrations, the chief press secretary to the president, Malam Abba Dabo, said in Lagos today.

He told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that President Shehu Shagari would not be able to attend because of some pressing state duties including the presentation of the 1984 budget to the national assembly.

Malam Abba said that a message to this effect had already been dispatched to President arap Moi of Kenya.

President Shagari, invited along with 10 other heads of state and government, was to be a special guest at Kenya's 20th independence anniversary celebration which began yesterday.

SENEGAL

Trial of 25 'Separatists' Opens in Dakar

AB061900 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, Dec 6 (AFP) — The trial of 25 separatists from the southern Senegalese province of Casamance has begun in the state security court here. Accused of prejudicing national unity, they were arrested before, during and after separatist demonstrations last December 26 organised by the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC), which wants to split the province off from the rest of Senegal.

Several hundred demonstrators marched through the streets of Ziguinchor, the provincial capital. They tried to haul the Senegalese flag down from public buildings before being dispersed by the security forces.

Diamacoune Senghor, a priest and alleged to be the brains behind the movement, denied participating in the demonstration or writing pamphlets demanding independence for Casamance. However he admitted writing to President Abdou Diouf calling for independence before the demonstrations took place.

Thirteen other defendants denied belonging to the MFDC but said they shared its ideals.

The trial continues.

Violence Reported in Casamance

AB070900 Paris AFP in French 0839 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, 7 Dec (AFP) — It has been learned from official sources in Dakar that three gendarmes, including an officer, were killed on Tuesday afternoon, while three others, together with a policeman, were injured when they tried to disperse a meeting in a village in the southern Senegalese region of Casamance.

The meeting was reportedly being held in connection with the trial of 25 members of a separatist movement which has claimed independence for Casamance. The defendants were arrested on 26 December.

Official sources in Dakar add that the meeting was finally dispersed and that the situation is now calm.

UPPER VOLTA

Compaore on Need To 'Fight Alongside' Others

AB051300 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 4 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The militant people of (?Dafole) staged a rally yesterday involving all 23 Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] from Yasso municipality. During the gathering, which was attended by Comrade Blaise Compaore and Comrade President Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], CDR officials drew the attention of the people to the dangers of incoherent mobilization and attempts by reactionaries and opportunist elements to infiltrate the ranks of the militants loyal to the democratic and popular revolution.

In his remarks, Captain Compaore, who had recently returned from a trip to Central Africa — Angola in particular — announced that he had briefed his hosts on the characteristics of the Upper Voltan revolution. According to him, the revolution is the concern of the Upper Voltan people. It is not a historical accident; rather, it is a result of the people's struggle for freedom, justice, and dignity. For Blaise Compaore, the struggles being waged by the Angolan and Upper Voltan people have much in common: Both are struggles for the liberation of Africa. Capt Compaore expressed the belief that for us, at this point, the major task is to strengthen the revolution in Upper Volta. He said that this cannot be achieved without an alliance with the democratic

forces in Africa or with the Angolan people. This implies that — because of our internationalist principles — we should realize that we must fight alongside others.

Soviet Group Donates Educational Materials

AB052105 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Within the framework of strengthening relations between the Soviet and Upper Voltan people, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries presented a consignment of educational materials worth 1 million CFA francs to the national secretary general of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] this morning. These materials include movie projectors, 20,000 schoolbags, 20,000 exercise books, 20,000 ball-point pens and refills, and 10,000 pencils. The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the CDR National Secretariat in the presence of the USSR ambassador to Upper Volta, His Excellency Yevgeniy Melnikov; the CDR national secretary general, Comrade Lieutenant Pierre Ouedraogo, his deputy, Comrade Lieutenant Yep Tinemite; and the secretary general [title as heard] of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, Vladimir Tsvetkov. The chairman of the Upper Voltan Committee of Afro-Asian solidarity, Comrade (Tal Sekou) also attended.

ANGOLA

Bulgarian Party Delegation Arrives on Visit

MB061456 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A Bulgarian Communist Party delegation led by Atanas Konstantinov, candidate member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of the Bulgarian Communist Party Department for Organization, arrived in Luanda today at the invitation of the MPLA-Labor Party.

On arrival at 4 February International Airport in Luanda (?he expressed the support) of the Bulgarian people for the Angolan people, who are constantly being attacked by the racist Pretoria regime's troops. He also said that the 6-day visit will contribute toward strengthening the existing relations between the MPLA-Labor Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party.

During its stay in our country, the Bulgarian delegation will meet with Comrade Lucio Lara, member of the Political Bureau and organizing secretary of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party, and will tour production units in the Provinces of Luanda, Bengo, and Huambo.

Frontline News Agency Directors Meet in Luanda

MB070804 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The directors of news agencies of the frontline states will meet in Luanda today to analyze the level of cooperation among the agencies, study the complete means for implementing cooperation, and sign agreements. This meeting follows the declaration that was signed by the ministers of information of the frontline states after meetings attended by the directors of the news agencies in the region that were held in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The meeting will be attended by Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. Other countries, such as Botswana and Zambia, have not yet confirmed their participation.

Frontline Conference on Information Held in Luanda

MB070719 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A conference on information in the frontline states was held recently in Luanda, the capital of Angola, by Angolan journalists. The People's Republic of Mozambique was represented at the meeting by Carlos Cardoso, director of AIM. The conference assessed the results of the ministerial meeting on information which was held in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, and the subsequent meeting held in Maputo by the directors of agencies and organs of information of the frontline states. The participants at the Luanda conference agreed that the newspapers of the frontline states must analyze and publicize the measures adopted at the two meetings and stress their opposition to the aggressive ideology of the Pretoria regime. The meeting, which was organized by the Union of Angolan journalists, was attended by representatives of all the information organs of that country.

160 UNITA Members Killed in FAPLA Operations

MB060946 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A further 160 UNITA bandits have been annihilated by the glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] in the Provinces of Huambo, Benguela, Cuanza Sul, Bie, and Moxico. Sources in FAPLA's higher echelons told ANGOP that the Angolan Armed Forces launched large-scale follow-up operations 14-26 November against puppets, destroying a number of enemy camps, capturing large quantities of materiel and military equipment, and releasing hundreds of peasants from the murderous UNITA claws.

Those sources told ANGOP that as the counterrevolutionaries escape through the bush they commit the most horrible crimes against defenseless civilians who peacefully live in their villages. Ministry of Defense sources indicated that the UNITA criminal actions are characterized by theft, mass murders, rape of women and teenagers, and the destruction of economic assets of our people.

BOTSWANA

BNP Urges Multiparty Role in Election Plans

MB070826 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] The leader of the Botswana National Front [BNF], Dr Kenneth Koma, says that his party has appealed to the president, Dr Quett Masire, to involve all political parties in preparations for the forthcoming elections, in order to remove doubt that the Botswana Democratic Party cheats in the elections. In addition, he said, the BNF had presented a memorandum suggesting a fair way in which elections could be organized and run.

Dr Koma said it surprised him to note that preparations for the coming general elections were under way without the participation of other parties in Botswana. He further claimed that if general elections continued to be unfair, the opposition parties would not have any chance of winning. The BNF [words indistinct] for the elections and prepare themselves for the forthcoming elections. Dr Koma said that he had come to Serowe to straighten out allegations that when elected into power, he will introduce a communist state just because he has been to a communist country.

MOZAMBIQUE

Relief Aid Given by Spain for Drought Victims

MB062020 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The Spanish Government has decided to make a contribution of more than 250,000 meticals in support of the victims of the drought that is striking Mozambique's southern provinces. The sum was handed over to the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in our country, the organization

which will be in charge of administering the donation within the relief aid programs which are being undertaken in Mozambique.

The Health Ministry today also received medicine from UNICEF, a UN body, intended to assist the drought-stricken people.

SOUTH AFRICA

Seychelles Coup Plot Investigation Continues

MB060844 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0806 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 6, SAPA — South African police are still investigating a coup d'etat plot against the Seychelles Government to determine whether the residence permits of those involved should be withdrawn.

The commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee, today confirmed that some of the men held by police in connection with the alleged plot had been released. However, he declined to identify those involved, or to say how many had been released.

He said the police investigation was continuing, and that the possibility of the withdrawal of the residence permits of those concerned had not yet been ruled out.

Johannesburg Hails Government, U.S. Stand on Namibia

MB061900 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Station commentary: "A Settlement in South-West Africa"]

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Mr R.F. Botha, has spent most of his time in Europe discussing developments in the South-West Africa negotiations. Over the past 10 days, Mr Botha's talks have centered on a peaceful settlement in South-West African/Namibia with the Portuguese Government, his West German and British counterparts, and in Rome with the American assistant secretary of state for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker.

The foreign minister is now returning to Lisbon for a second time to renew discussions on South-West Africa/Namibia. These negotiations are in stark contrast to the bitter tirades of the United Nations and the Commonwealth summit in New Delhi recently, where South Africa was accused of poisoning the path to a settlement and stalling the territory's independence. The radicals insist on a halt to the negotiations, South Africa's withdrawal from South-West Africa, and independence no matter what the consequences. But the consequences not only for South-West Africa, but for the whole of southern Africa, are worrying to Pretoria.

The South African Government is committed to a peaceful settlement of the South-West African dispute on the basis of the Western conceived UN approved plan for independence known as Resolution 435. For South Africa — and in this it has the support of the United States — there is only the issue of the withdrawal of the Cuban forces from Angola to be resolved. South Africa considers that as long as the 30,000 Cubans remain in Angola it would be impossible to achieve a peaceful and stable settlement in South-West Africa and to create long-range prospects for peace in the whole of southern Africa.

Dr Crocker recently summed up America's position as follows: We wonder, he said, how a young government in a fragile new state of Namibia can be expected to survive and prosper with a seemingly endless civil war on its northern border, with substantial Soviet-Cuban presence nearby, and with the consequent prospect of a new sequence of intervention involving perhaps both South Africa and communist forces.

For South Africa and the United States no deal is possible until the security concerns of all sides are met. It is this obstacle that Foreign Minister Botha is again trying to overcome through negotiation in Europe. Whatever the outcome, only perseverence and good will will resolve the final obstacles. South Africa has proved that it has the patience and commitment.

Reportage, Comment on Soweto Local Elections

Low Election Turnout

MB051430 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 5 Dec 83 p 1

[By Patrick Laurence, policitical editor]

[Text] The "mayor" of Soweto, Mr David Thebehali, and his deputy, Mr T.J. Makhaya, were both defeated in the first elections for a Soweto town council under the Black Local Authorities Act at the weekend. The defeat of Mr Thebehali and Mr Makhaya by candidates of the Sofasonke Party aside, the central feature of the election was the low poll of barely more than 10 percent.

The weekend elections took place against a backdrop of fierce controversy of whether to participate or not, with the United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation spearheading a vigorous campaign for a boycott. Most observers agreed that Soweto would serve as a key barometer to the acceptability of the new system of town councils.

The deputy electoral officer, Mr P.H. Marks, last night provisionally put the Soweto poll at 10.7 percent, marginally higher than the 6 percent poll cast in the 1978 Soweto community council elections, but lower than the poll in most smaller black townships in the current elections.

Weekend elections in Soweto's adjoining sister townships of Diepmeadow and Dobsonville attracted slightly more voters. In Diepmeadow the poll was 14.6 percent. In Dobsonville it was 23.5 percent. The "mayor" of Diepmeadow, Mr Joseph Mahuhushi, was elected by a large margin. His counterpart in Dobsonville, Mr Isaac Mashao, was unopposed.

In Soweto proper both Mr Thebehali and Mr Makhaya — who have dominated the Soweto Council for nearly seven years — were unseated by candidates of the Sofasonke Party of business-

man Mr Ephraim Tshabalala. Mr Thebehali was defeated by Mr C.S. Lengene, son of the former chairman of the old Soweto Urban Bantu Council, Mr Peter Lengene. Mr Thebehali polled 373 votes to Mr Lengene's 559. Mr Makhaya polled 220 votes against a massive 1,365 for his Sofasonke opponent, Mr M.S. Gcwensa.

Insofar as people went to the polls in Soweto, the election was a triumph for Mr Tshabalala, who won an overwhelming victory in Ward 7, polling 1,115 votes to 35 for his opponent. Mr Tshabalala's Sofasonke Party captured 17 of the 30 wards, which means that Mr Tshabalala seems certain to be elected as "mayor" when the Soweto Town Council meets tomorrow.

Sofasonke translates as "Together we die", and the Sofasonke Party traces its origins to Mr James Mpanza, a squatter leader who emerged during the Second World War when thousands of blacks moved into Johannesburg and its environs. Since them, however, Sofasonke has shed most of its earlier radicalism and become an essentially conservative party.

The town and village councils in townships established under the Black Local Authorities Act represent Pretoria's third attempt to set up institutions for local self-government for urban blacks. They are the product of the "new era of reform" inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

They have been presented as an integral part of the "alternative constitutional path" devised for blacks.

'Progress' Seen in Results

MB051116 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 5 Dec 83

[Text] The South African minister of cooperation and development, Dr Pieter Koornhof, says the results of the local government elections held in Soweto on Saturday are reasonable. In a statement released in Johannesburg, Dr Koornhof says that in the 23 elections held so far in terms of the government's policy of granting urban black communities a greater say in the running of their own affairs, 21 percent of the registered voters had gone to the polls.

The figure for the elections held to elect members to the councils for Diepmeadow, Dobsonville, and Soweto, which make up the city of greater Soweto, was 16 percent. This was a considerable improvement in the percentage poll for the last elections held to return members to the now abolished community councils. The statement points out that traditionally the voting percentage in local elections in South Africa was low. Dr Koornhof said that in 1977 only 18 percent of the white voters cast ballots in an election in Pretoria, and the figure for the same area in 1982 was 26 percent. If it was taken into account that there had been considerable imtimidation to keep people away from the polls, progress had been made in the Soweto elections.

The statement says the local authorities would now be established, and their responsibilities would grow. The democratic principle was being established and applied. Two rounds of voting in the current elections remain. The people of (Attridgeville) near Pretoria go to the polls on Wednesday and the last election will be held at (Bothlokong) at Bethlehem in the Orange Free state province next Saturday.

Black 'Rejection' Viewed

MB061220 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 6 Dec 83 p 14

[Editorial: "Message of Rejection"]

[Text] The last elections for urban blacks were held in 1978. There was then still a political hangover from the violent disturbances of 1976 and 1977 and this contributed to Soweto's extremely low poll of 6 percent.

Elections have now again been held. This time the country has been quiet and the election issues have been abundantly clear: the Black Local Authorities Act was well-publicised and everyone knew that what was at stake was the government's great plan for giving urban blacks what it says in control over their lives.

Yet a derisory 10.7 percent cast their votes in Soweto — the area where it matters most.

No amount of official excuses or justifications can get over this.

It is not that the new act is all that bad. On the contrary, there are excellent features to it — if, that is, one accepts an apartheid ghetto existence for blacks as an immutable part of life to stretch into the evermore, and if one ignores the inconvenient fact that no one had yet explained how the proposed black local authorities are going to find money to function in a normal way despite being abnormal creations of apartheid.

The fundamental issues were at stake in the election. Still more, there was an active boycott movement which laid stress on the new act being the government's attempt to sidetrack blacks from their birthright: total rights in a nonracial South Africa.

That so many people stayed away from the polls is a straightforward statement on how blacks view what the government is doing. It comes down to outright rejection.

It will be foolhardy, and dangerous, for the government to pretend for a moment that it has any kind of a mandate from urban blacks to push on with its plans. It hasn't and the quicker this is faced up to, the better. As always, the only way that real reform can be undertaken is by ensuring that black people take full part in joint negotiations about a shared future in the subcontinent.

Government Fails To Resolve Differences in Magopa

MB061220 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0834 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 6, SAPA — The government failed during a five-hour meeting in Pretoria yesterday to reconcile differences between leaders of the Bakwena tribe who had already moved to

Pachsdraai and a faction of the tribe which was refusing to move from Magopa.

A statement issued by the deputy minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Louis Nel, after the meeting said it was "unfortunately not possible to resolve the very strong differences between the opposing factions of the tribe."

It mentioned that the minister of cooperation and development, Mr Piet Koornhof, who chaired the meeting, had made "certain" proposals to the opposing factions. One proposal was that buses would be made available should people remaining in Magopa wish to investigate facilities at Pachsdraai.

BEELD Deplores Magopa Events

MB061440 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 1 Dec 83 p 20

[Editorial: "Resettlement"]

[Text] Rightly or wrongly, the removal of people from the Magopa area to Pachsdraai creates the impression that an explosive situation has not been handled with the necessary sensitivity and understanding, with the result that the Department of Cooperation and Development is again saddled with a situation consisting of nothing but crisis options. Unfortunately, this is often the case with resettlement and squatters.

Removals like these cause a lot of harm to our image abroad, and are manna from heaven for the foreign media and anti-South Africa groups. They also neutralize the many good things we are busy with in this country.

At this very moment, Minister Pik Botha is abroad conducting discussions, and the Magopa issue will not strengthen his hand. Already the U.S. Government has voiced its disapproval.

The damage within the country is greater. The whole new constitutional dispensation is going to depend to a great extent on correct attitudes — as will the discussions in search for a dispensation for blacks. Magopa and the clinical determination of 'a black spot which must be removed' in no way helps healthy attitudes.

What is urgently needed is a change of style on these prickly issues and clear guidance from the top for the officials involved.

Council for Local Affairs To Be Instituted 1 Jan

MB061214 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] A milepost will be reached in South African constitutional development on January 1 when the Council for the Coordination of Local Authority Affairs is instituted. The council will be responsible for the coordination of local authority affairs between central, provincial, and local authority levels.

The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Heunis, has told a news conference in Pretoria that the institution of the council gives effect to the Promotion of Local Authority Affairs Act, which was adopted by Parliament earlier this year. Mr Heunis, who is chairman of the council, says it will be the highest statutory forum for debate in South Africa, where whites, Coloreds, and Indians will be able to discuss regional, metropolitan, and local authority affairs.

The council will be holding its inaugural meeting in Cape Town on January 30. Mr Heunis says the names of the nominated members will be announced in the *GOVERNMENT GAZETTE* on Friday.

HNP Presses Conservatives for Cooperation Plan

MB061915 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The Planning Committee of the Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP] says in a statement which has been handed to the Conservative Party [CP] together with a letter that unless the CP puts forward positive proposals for cooperation, the HNP will be compelled to nominate candidates in the Soutpansberg constituency. The HNP says in the statement that it remains prepared to cooperate, and the executive states clearly that it is also prepared to resume the interrupted dialogue on cooperation. Discussions were called off according to the HNP after a statement had been issued by Dr A.P. Treurnicht about the publication of a certain news report. The statement adds that many problems may arise if one party puts up a provincial and the other party puts up a parliamentary candidate.

According to the HNP, the only practical line of conduct in such an event is to form one organization with uniform propaganda and common platforms. It says the alterantive will be ludicrous and will result in alienation rather than repprochement. The HNP says that genuine cooperation may only be obtained through equal partnership and the recognition of the real principles of nationalism.

ZIMBABWE

Government Lauds Yugoslav Nonaligned Stance

MB070726 Harare THE HERALD in English 29 Nov 83 p 4

[Excerpt] Zimbabwe yesterday applauded Yugoslavia's continued adherence to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement on the occasion of its national day.

Speaking in Harare at a reception to mark the occasion, the acting minister of foreign affairs, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, said: "Zimbabwe as a member of the movement shares with you the belief in the sacred principles of the preservation of independence from any form of colonialism, the territorial integrity of independent states as well as the inviolability of their boundaries."

The minister said that efforts to safeguard these principles were essential as the international situation became more grave and

threatening. There was hardly a region in the world which was free from violence or the threat to the integrity of its sovereignty.

"The gunboat diplomacy of the 19th century seems to characterise the behavior of certain major powers today. Any pretext is good enough for sending in boats, planes and guns."

Cde Shamuyarira also thanked Yugoslavia on its commitment to the support of liberation movements, particularly those of Namibia and South Africa.

KCNA Officials Urges Stronger Ties With ZIANA

MB070728 Harare THE HERALD in English 30 Nov 83 p 4

[By *HERALD* reporter]

[Text] Relationships between the ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICA NEWS AGENCY and the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY should be strengthened, two visiting Korean newsmen said in Harare yesterday.

The deputy director general of the Korean agency, Cde Han Chong-sop, and departmental head in the agency, Cde Yong Shon- sok, said they were in Zimbabwe to study the media in the country.

Since their arrival in Zimbabwe last Friday, they have visited several media institutions including ZIANA, *THE HERALD* and the Ministry of Information, Posts and Telecommunications.

They hoped that in future, the relationship between the two agencies would reflect the good cooperation that existed between Zimbabwe and Korea.

Information Minister Clarifies Intent of Media Ban

MB060937 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 6 Dec 83

[Text] The main purpose of the Kadoma Declaration is to increase cooperation among frontline states' media organizations and to facilitate coverage of these countries by foreign media. The clarification was made by the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, to correct the erroneous impression created by a press statement from the International Press Institute in Zurich, Switzerland.

Comrade Shamuyarira explained that the declaration, which bans correspondents based in racist South Africa from covering frontline states, was not in any way an attack on press freedom and basic human rights. The minister revealed that three international news agencies have now established their offices in Harare, instead of covering Zimbabwe through a Johannesburg-based correspondent.

Comrade Shamuyarira expressed disappointment that the International Press Institute is preoccupied with the so-called freedom of the press and not in the widespread abuse of that freedom by a number of journalists operating from South Africa. He denied reports that there is a relaxation of the implementation of the Kadoma Declaration.

Earlier yesterday Comrade Shamuyarira told delegates at a seminar on management for program controllers and heads of programs in Harare that the government wants to ensure that the radio services reach all parts of Zimbabwe in languages that people can understand. Comrade Shamuyarira pointed out that after independence the government overhauled the broadcasting service which was racial in orientation and colonial in material output.